www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XVIII, Issue No. 72 **WEDNESDAY** MARCH 12, 2008



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a complete ban on smoking in restaurants, bars. and other public places in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



NYC Scandal

Gov. Eliot Spitzer's political career teetered on the brink of collapse Monday.

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School Hunt

How to pick the right school for your kids.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 17



Hall of Fame

Madonna, pop music's quickchange artist, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Ranking Boy Scouts officials visit Saipan. PAGE 2 NMI awarded \$98.4K for food, shelter programs. PAGE 7

'New omnibus bill will include NMI immigration'

By MARK RABAGO

ASSISTANT EDITOR

While S. 2483 is not expected to be con-

immigration provision is expected to be introduced soon.

According to a congressional staff sidered anymore by the U.S. Senate, a source who spoke on condition of ano-

new omnibus bill that includes the CNMI nymity, the new omnibus bill takes the place of S. 2483 and will be introduced in the U.S. Senate in a matters of weeks.

"The CNMI immigration provisions will be included in a new Senate omnibus said in an e-mail to the Saipan Tribune.

He added that the new bill will be similar to, but longer than, S. 2483. It will

Norita is new DPS chief

he Fitial administration has let go of Rebecca Warfield and replaced her with former congressman Clyde K. Norita as the new Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety.





The announcement, issued late yesterday afternoon by the Fitial administration, did not specify any reason why Warfield was being replaced, nor did it mention Warfield's name in the statement.

Warfield could not be immediately reached for comments yesterday. Calls made to her office were not answered.

The statement announcing Norita's appointment to the post also named Diego Songsong as the new Secretary of the Department of Public Works.

Both men will serve in acting See NORITA on Page 4

Feb. arrivals highest in 18 months

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Visitor arrivals to the CNMI totaled 40,222 last month the first time tourist numbers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota reached that threshold in the past 18 months.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, February 2008 visitor arrivals translate to a 5.88percent increase from the 37,990 tourists that visited the Commonwealth in the same month last year.

MVA said it was the first time since August 2006 that visitor arrivals reached the 40,000 level.

Coupled with the continued growth of the Korean market, the 5.88-percent See FEB. on Page 4



FAMILIES FIT FOR LIFE WALK

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Joeten staff and employees walk along the Beach Road pathway from Kilili Pavilion to the Quartermaster road and back during Joeten's first Families Fit for Life Health Program. The bimonthly fitness walks are organized by Joeten Charitable Foundation and the Joeten Group of companies for their employees and their families to be more aware of health issues and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.







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Local



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Chief Scout Executive for the Boy Scouts of America Robert Mazzuca, sixth from left, and his wife Nanette is joined by Wayne and Ernestine Brock, Al and Lynn Kugler, Tom and Mimi Fitzgibbon, Jeff and Metechia Woolsey, C. Dudley Pratt, Robert Nakagawa and John Mills. Also in photo are CIC's David Sablan Sr., Fr. Joe Billotti, NMC's Mark Mendiola, and OPA's Mike Sablan during a gathering at the Saipan Grand Hotel Tuesday morning for the Pacific Basin Scouting Tours, which is being held from March 8 to 15.

Ranking Boy Scouts officials visit Saipan

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA editor@saipantribune.com

Ranking officials of the Boy Scouts of America swung by Saipan yesterday for a one-day visit on a trip that aims to check the various scouting programs in the Micronesian region and to determine what needs to be done to help the movement grow in the Pacific.

The eight-person delegation was led by Chief Scout Executive Robert J. Mazzuca from Irving, Texas, and Council Scout Executive Jeff Woolsey of the Aloha Council in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"We're on a tour of the scouting programs in the Micronesia and the Marshall Islands through the Aloha Council, which is responsible for this area," Mazzuca said. "First, we are checking them out and second, we want to help determine what are the resources we can bring to help grow the program here. Scouting is such a valuable asset to any community and the young people out here on the islands can certainly use it."

He said the local program he'd seen had shown him the deep involvement of the islands' youth in the scouting program "but there could be so many more young people that could be and should be involved in scouting. It's just a matter of bringing resources to bear [and] encouraging volunteers and others to step up."

Also the BSA wanted to express its appreciation to all the volunteers on Saipan, Guam, and the other jurisdictions, as well as to provide more exposure and visibility for the program as a

means to inform local residents of the value of scouting.

There are about 9,000 people involved in scouting throughout Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, Guam, and Saipan, he said. In the CNMI, there are an estimated 220 young boys under both the Scouts and the Cub Scouts programs.

Mazzuca, who is a first-time visitor to this area, described Saipan as "gorgeous, absolutely stunning and the people are so friendly."

Woolsey said that one of his first impressions here was a deep concern for children and for programs for the young people of the islands. "And their willingness. They really want scouting to take off."

Besides meeting with local scouting representatives, the group also met with Fr. Joseph E. Billotti and Fr. Ryan Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to explore the possibility of the local Catholic Church and the scouting program linking up.

"The Catholic Church is one of our largest partner organization and we got a little traction, I believe, in helping encourage the Catholic Church here on Saipan to consider scouting as an adjunct to their youth ministry program," said Mazzuca.

The group also met with Gov. Benigno Fitial, whom they described as a "great supporter" of the scouting program.

The group left yesterday afternoon for Guam. Today, they will proceed to Chuuk, then Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajalein, and Majuro.

See RANKING on next page

Mechanical problem disrupts power supply to four schools

Another mechanical problem in one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant I in Lower Base triggered rolling outages and af-

fected four public schools.

CUC acting power manager Gary P. Camacho told Saipan *Tribune* that the mechanical problem on Engine No. 6 caused

the utility agency to implement power load shedding.

Schools affected by the outages were Southern High School, San Antonio ElementaSchool, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

He said that power generation experienced the mechanical problem at 10:56am and this automatically activated the protective devices on the engine.

"Because of the immediate

power plants could not meet the island power demand and the plant operators were required to commence emergency load shedding," he explained.

The power plant staff, Camacho said, immediately initiated the necessary repairs

ry School, Tanapag Elementary loss of electrical generation, the on the engine and completed work at 4:10pm.

> He added that CUC makes all efforts not to include the school system in any rotating outage schedule, but that there are uncontrollable situations that require them to do so. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Tan awarded BSA Silver Award

The Boys Scouts of America awarded Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan the Silver Award for his volunteerism and contributions to the Boys Scout program in the CNMI.

Tan is the first recipient of the Silver Award in the CNMI in over 10 years. The Silver Award is the highest honor that a district can bestow upon any volunteer.

Chief Scout Executive Robert Mazzuca out of Dallas, Texas, expressed his appreciation for Tan's effort in supporting and ensuring that the Boys Scouts program in the CNMI continues to grow.

Bob Jones, vice president of the Aloha Council, praised Tan for committing his time and resources in helping the scouting program in the CNMI.

Tan provides financial and lo-

RANKING

From Page 2

District commissioner Mark Mendiola said they have lined up many activities for the local district but they also want to focus on increasing their numbers.

"We continue with our summer camps, with the support of a lot of our volunteers and the business community. We also have boy scout and cub scout activities. But we want to try and increase membership because we really need great youth programs that focus on character development and building ethics. The program has a lot to offer our kids. By exposing them to the Boy Scouting program, they'll have an array of core values that the BSA has stood for a hundred years."

camp and other activities that the group is planning for the year.

Century Insurance Co. Ltd. president David M. Sablan accepted the Silver Award on Tan's behalf as he is in Los Angeles.

Sablan said that Tan appreciates the recognition from the Boys Scouts of America and that he will continue showing his support.

District commissioner Mark Mendiola said he wants to see if there is any way the local soc-

gistical support to the Boys Scout cer program, of which Tan is a member, can partner with the Boys Scouts program, "not just for sports but for life skills that a child can grow up with."

The Boys Scouts of America, incorporated on Feb. 8, 1910, and chartered by the American Congress in 1916, aims to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

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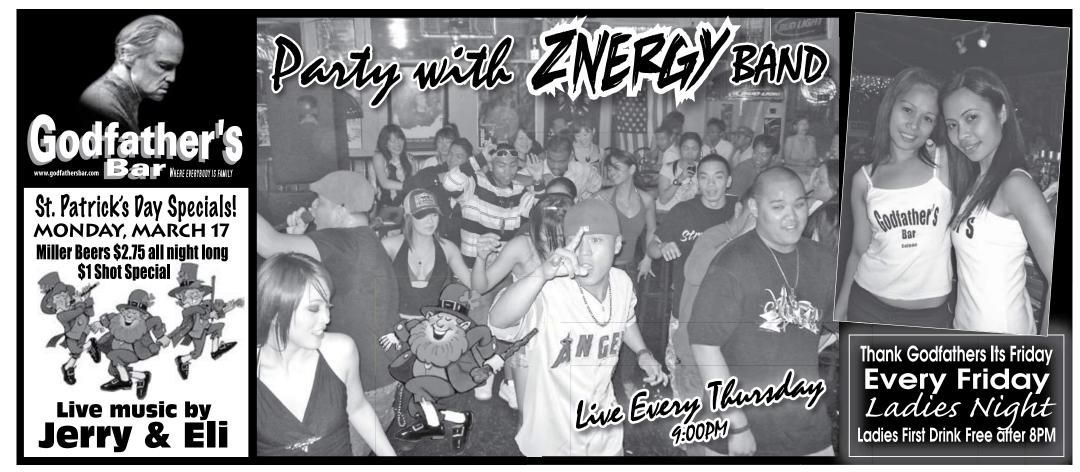
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Alleged 'ice' supplier on Rota arrested

man who was allegedly engaged in selling methamphetamine or "ice" at a karaoke premises in Songsong Village, Rota.

Yaoqiang Sha, 44, a Chinese, alias Sasha, Pongwa and Kiku, were brought to the Saipan Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Sha was detained for posses-

sion and distribution of controlled substance.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$20,000 cash bail for Sha's temporary

Preliminary hearing was set for March 17 at 9am.

Detective Francis B. Manglona stated in his report that based on their investigation and with the help of a "cooperating source," they found out that Sha has been using the premises of Angel Karaoke to sell "ice."

Manglona said that on Monday, Rota and Saipan Drug Enforcement Task Force conduced a recorded drug controlled buywalk operation.

The detective said their "cooperating source" managed to buy \$200 worth of "ice" from Sha.

Manglona said that in the second operation, the "cooperating source" was able to buy \$100 worth of "ice" from the defendant.

Police learned that Sha is the only male occupant of Angel Karaoke. The rest are Chinese employees of the karaoke. (Ferdie de la Torre)

NORITA

From Page 1

capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

In a letter to Norita, Fitial said, "Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and I are very pleased to appoint you to serve as the acting commissioner of [DPS], where you retired as an officer and where you previously served without compensation as my special advisor to the Department of Public Safety."

Fitial said that he and Villagomez appreciate Norita's extensive law enforcement experience and that they have high confidence in Norita's leadership and management abilities.

"We trust that you will quickly gain the respect of the department and unite our men in uniform under your capable leadership for the betterment of our local community," Fitial told Norita.

He thanked Norita for accepting the administration's call to serve DPS again.

Norita, for his part, said, "I am humbled that the Governor and Lt. Governor have given me an opportunity to serve the Commonwealth in this capacity."

Norita previously served as

the executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and he was also elected to the 14th CNMI Legislature. He also served as an acting Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. He rose through the ranks as a career law enforcement professional, going from police officer I to the rank of major. Norita attended numerous professional development conferences and law enforcement training ses-

Songsong had been serving as deputy DPW Secretary prior to replacing Jose Demapan, who

sions throughout his 20-year

career at DPS.

had resigned.

"Given your many years of service at DPW, the Lt. Governor and I have every confidence in your ability to capably manage the department and foster unity and teamwork among DPW employees," said Fitial.

"I thank both the Governor & Lt. Governor for entrusting me with this responsibility, and I pledge to do my best for our Department of Public Works," said Songsong.

The Fitial administration is relying on DPW to process federal capital improvement projects in a timely and responsible manner. (Saipan Tribune)



HOPWOOD'S MATH WIZARDS

This picture shows Hopwood Jr. High School's Math Court participants and their math teachers. Hopwood student Edu Banaag won overall first place in the competition. First row, from left, are Andrew Villanueva, Royze Barados, Dayarara Flores, Jeralyn Castillo, and Eleonor Earillo. Second row, from left, are Mr. Tomokane, John Paul Aglubat, Edu Banaag, Leila Hicking, Marjorie Ann Cuerdo, Vivian Viernes, Arlrose Atienza, Benedict Almendras, and Mark Villanoes. Seated front, from left, are Mr. Gagaring, Mrs. Gagaring, Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Masga, Mrs. Ada, and Mr. Cabrera. Hopwood says it is excited and proud of all its Math Court Students and coaches. "The school and community praises your hard work and dedication toward improving math goals and successfully taking the championship in Math Court this year!"

NEW

From Page 1

also have several additional sections, or bills.

When asked if the CNMI immigration provisions—enclosed in the soon-to-be introduced new omnibus bill-would be thumbed down by members of the U.S. Senate, the source replied, "No senator has indicated their opposition to the CNMI legislation. It has very broad support and is expected to become law soon."

He added that S. 2483 was not stalled because of the CNMI immigration provisions, but rather the original omnibus bill was deferred because of controversy over an amendment that was expected to be offered by Sen. Tom Coburn regarding guns in the National Park System.

"There is not expected to be an agreement on amendments, so negotiations on all, including guns, will start anew," he said,

S. 2483—the bill placing local immigration under federal control-fell off track after it got mired in the gun control debate and national politics last month.

This happened after Sen. Coburn reportedly proposed an amendment allowing guns in public parks—a controversial issue especially in an election year.

Title VII of the omnibus package, S. 2483, contains the exact text of H.R. 3079 as passed by the House on Dec. 12, 2007, and as approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last month.

Title VII would extend immigration law to the Northern Marianas and create a federally run guest-worker program in the Commonwealth. It would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House with limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

Before adjourning in December, the Senate adopted a unanimous consent agreement governing debate on S. 2483. That agreement limits the number of amendments that may be offered on the Senate floor to S. 2483 to five amendments. The amendments that have been made address aspects apart from the CNMI title.

Miura may take legal battle to federal court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura's lawyers on Saipan may likely pursue a legal battle in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Attorney Bruce Berline told the media that they did not file a motion in court yesterday, but that they will most likely be filing

We are not filing any document today because the California case in this case are intricately intertwined. So everything that happens in California, every information that we get from California affects our decision on how and what we are going to file," Berline said.

The lawyer refused to comment as to what motion or complaint they are going to file in court or which court. But sources said that Miura's legal team may likely file a petition for habeas corpus in the federal court.

Berline said their filing will depend on his conversation with their co-counsel in California, celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, this morning (Wednesday).

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told Saipan Tribune that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may decide by Thursday or Friday whether or not he will sign the governor's warrant for the arrest of Miura.

Reyes quoted Fitial as saying that if everything is in order after review and recommendation and advice from his attorney and if it is ready by Wednesday, he will sign it and hold a press conference.

'So whenever it's ready we will do it. Maybe Thursday or Friday. But if we are ready. We have to receive the documents first. I don't know if we have received the documents yet," he said.

Once they receive the documents by today, Wednesday, they will review everything first, Reyes said.

"If anything is missing, we will ask California to send the missing document, to make sure that we take our time to make sure we do it right," he added.

Reyes said Fitial did not go to the Governor's Office yesterday but had a meeting outside his office instead.

FEB.

From Page 1

increase was also buoyed by the relative good health of the islands' No. 1 market, Japan, which showed its slowest decline in months with a 4-percent decrease in visitors.

MVA added that ship arrivals also contributed to the encouraging tourist numbers last month, as one military ship and three cruise ships docked at the Saipan port in February 2008.

"This is the kind of growth we like to see," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The additional flights either from our scheduled or charter flights from our main markets combined with the four ships we had on island made a marked difference in our February arrivals."

Korean visitor arrivals soared by 44 percent as 11,116 visitors arrived in February 2008 compared to a mere 7,721 in February 2007.

MVA said the last time visitor arrivals from Korea reached the 11.000 mark for the month of February was in 1997—11 years ago.

Last month a total of 66 flights arrived from Korea compared to 40 flights for the same period last vear. The Commonwealth's tourism body said that February was a popular month for outbound travel in Korea due to the celebration of the lunar holidays.

Japan visitor arrivals, meanwhile, totaled 18,886 in February 2008, a bit down compared to 19,675 in the same month in 2007. According to the MVA,

aside from the regular flights from Japan, there were also four charter flights and one cruise ship that visited the CNMI during the month.

Sea-bound travel from the U.S., for its part, brought in a total of 2,143 visitors and resulted in a larger-than-usual growth in the U.S. market, which increased 124 percent, according to the MVA.

Another positive development last month was the continued strength of the burgeoning Russia market, which posted a 101-percent growth in February representing 346 visitors, up from 172 a year ago.

"Although Russia visitors still account for a small number of visitors in the overall visitor profile, their extended stays in the CNMI are good for the visitor industry. The Russian visitor stays an average of 12 nights, which not only gives a boost to our local hotels but also to other tourist related businesses in the CNMI," the MVA added.

The strong visitor arrival number from Korea, the U.S., and Russia more than made up for the lackluster performance of MVA's China market, which numbers dropped for a fourth consecutive month, posting a 19-percent decrease to 5,913 compared to 7,298 in the same period a year ago.

Guam also showed a 33-percent increase in visitor arrivals to the CNMI to 1,817 from 1,366 in February 2007, while the Philippines, Taiwan, and "other areas" registered negative growth of 79 percent (110 visitor arrivals), 60 percent (23), and 4 percent (493), respectively.

17 NMC degrees, certificates to become 'inactive'

Some 17 certificates and degrees under the Business Department of the Northern Marianas College will be placed on "inactive" status effective March 29, 2008, due to a consistent lack of students enrolling in these programs.

Business Department chair Eric Plinske said that recent analysis of enrollment and graduation statistics showed that these 17 Business certificates and degrees have had limited to no enrollment in, or graduation from, in the past eight academic years.

For this reason, and to focus the department's effort on improving the five, high demand Business degrees, Plinske said the department plans to place these 17 certificates and degrees on "inactive" status.

"Even though these programs may be placed on inactive status, it does not mean that we are eliminating them," said Plinske. "We will actually have our PACs [Program Advisory Councils] review each of the inactive program curriculums to help us determine if we should modify them to better meet the needs of students and employers, and if so, reactivate them at a later date."

The affected Business certificates and degrees are:

Certificate of Completion in:

- Accounting
- Business Management
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- istration
- Sales and Marketing

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Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Administration with an **Emphasis in:**

- Office Technology Administration
- Sales and Marketing

By placing a certificate or degree on inactive status, this means that a student will not be able to declare the certificate or degree as their major after the date of inactive status takes effect.

However, Plinske pointed out that any student who had already declared one or more of these certificates or degrees, or who does declare the certificate(s) or degree(s) as their major with the NMC Office of Admissions and Records before the inactive status date takes effect will be able to continue in and graduate from the affected program(s).

Also, any student who has



Plinske

already completed the necessary courses to earn one or more of the 17 certificates or degrees that are about to go on inactive status may petition to graduate with the certificate(s) or degree(s) as long as they do so with the NMC Office of Admissions and Records on or before March 28, 2008.

According to Plinske, NMC's Academic Council has already approved the placement of the following certificates and degrees on inactive status effective March 29, 2008: Certificates of Completion in Accounting, Office Technology Administration and Sales and Marketing; Certificates of Achievement in Accounting, Office Technology Administration and Sales and Marketing; and the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Office Technology Administration and an Emphasis in Sales and Marketing.

Plinske said that he plans to present nine additional proposals to the Academic Council this week to place the Certificates of Completion in Business Management, Computer Applications, and Hospitality Management; and the Certificates of Achievement in Business Management, Computer Applications, Culinary Arts, Food and Beverage Services, Hospitality Management, and Hotel Operations on inactive status effective March 29, 2008.

The move comes about as Business Department implements an extensive program review in an effort to strengthen the business certificate and degree programs at Northern Marianas College.

After the Business Department finished analyzing historical enrollment and graduation statistics for the past eight academic years, Plinske said that it became quite clear that the overwhelming majority (80 percent) of Business students pursue majors in either the Associate of Arts in Business degree, Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management degree, or the Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration degree with emphasis in either Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications.

The Associate of Arts in Busi-

ness degree is designed to be a ers. In doing so, Program Advitransfer degree for students who plan to go on to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business after graduating from NMC. The Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management degree and Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications are designed to be terminal degrees for students who plan to find a job and work in one of these fields upon graduating from NMC.

According to Plinske, the Business Department is now thoroughly assessing each of these degree programs to ensure that the content is meeting the needs of students and employ-

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sory Councils are being formed for each of the Business certificate and degree programs.

The PACs will be composed of public and private sector employers who will assist the department in evaluating the curriculum and course content to ensure that it is aligned with current employer needs.

The PACs will also make recommendations on how to improve course transferability to other institutions and job placement strategies for graduates who are seeking employment. The ultimate goal is to make sure that NMC students graduating with these business certificates and degrees will have the necessary skills to succeed on the job and that employers will about the NMC Business cervalue the certificates and degrees and recruit NMC graduates for employment at their respective organizations.

If anyone has any questions

tificate or degree programs, they are encouraged to contact Plinske at 234-5498 ext. 1830, or email ericp@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)





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'Alien workers in hardship exempted from periodic exit'

REPORTER

The Department of Labor will exempt from the periodic exit requirements those alien workers who are in "hardship cases."

The administration's legal counsel Deanne Siemer said this means those who have no means to go to their homeland, have no families to go to, or have children who have serious condition, among other serious cases.

"Those are hardship cases. The department is working on hardship qualifications so those people will not be required to go home," said Siemer during yesterday's Labor outreach program held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The periodic exit requirement was among the many topics discussed by Siemer at the outreach program attended by 11

employers and business representatives.

Also present at the presentation were Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat, Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan, and four other Labor officials.

Siemer said the periodic exit requires every foreign worker to go home for a period of time once every three and a half

"It applies to all foreign workers except [for] key employees," she explained.

Every employer, the lawyer pointed out, must designate a key employee. Designating key employees is an effort to make it easier for businesses because Labor does not say who are the key employees.

"Those people—the key employees—are not going home," she said.

Siemer cited two kinds of home for six months." she said. employers and two different periodic exit requirements that apply to those two employers.

"One kind of employer is the kind of employer who does not hire U.S. citizens [and] refuses to hire our people..." Siemer said.

For those employers, she said, every foreign worker will go home for six months. "Every single one of them is going During that six months, Labor

Employment Services director Pangelinan and Division of Employment Services supervisor Alice I. Concepcion are going to try to fill up the position with U.S. citizens.

"Because that's the purpose of our law, we want U.S. citizens to be employed," she said. On the other hand, Siemer said

law, hire U.S. citizens, and try to hire permanent residents.

"The foreign workers of those employers will go home for only 60 days. That's all. If you comply with our law, your farmer can go home for 60 days. If you don't comply with our law, your farmer will go home for six months," she said.

Siemer said this is an example years for 30 to 40 days.

there are employers who obey the of an incentive for people who comply with the Labor law.

> "Because it is very expensive to send your workers home for six months. So this is an effort to reward people who do well and to encourage others to follow," she said.

On the 60-day exit, Siemer said almost all alien workers go home once every two or three

Luau for Japanese media pushes through today

The planned barbecue party hosted by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will push through today starting at 7pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex.

The governor's press secretary Charles P. Reyes confirmed yesterday the time and date of the luau today, but said the Japanese media has requested Marianas Visitors Authority and the Governor's Office to change time so that the party could coincide with their live streaming of events on Saipan to Japan.

At the height of the Kazuyoshi Miura case on Saipan, more than 100 media from Japan arrived on the island.

Fitial said that, while the arrival of his Japanese "friends" could have come under better circumstances-Miura is being accused of murdering his wife 24 years ago—he still is happy that the media frenzy surrounding the case has put the CNMI on the world map.

"I think this is a blessing for the CNMI because it puts the CNMI [on] many, many maps. Now the whole world is fully aware of where the CNMI is," said the

governor. "Although this is not very nice because of this case, but at least he CNMI is being exposed internationally. Finally they know where Saipan is. That is huge advantage, and benefits the CNMI. It has gained tremendous exposure worldwide. And thank you to all of you," he said during Friday's press conference. (Mark Rabago)





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MELL SENOKO	V001	3/14 FRI	3/15 SAT	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT	3/25 TUE	3/26 WED	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	4/1 TUE
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	SKIP	4/2 WED	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE
STADT HAMBURG	V014	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/9 WED	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE
MELL SENOKO	V002	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	SKIP	4/16 WED	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE
ASIAN ISLAND	V007	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/23 WED	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE
STADT HAMBURG	V013	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	SKIP	4/30 WED	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE
MELL SENOKO	V003	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/7 WED	5/9 FRI	5/310 SAT	5/13 TUE
ASIAN ISLAND	V008	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	SKIP	5/14 WED	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE

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CNMI awarded \$98.4K for food and shelter programs

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI has been awarded federal funds under the Emergency and Shelter National Board program.

The Karidat Social Services reported that the CNMI had been chosen to receive \$98,455 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by the National Board, which is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; American Catholic Charities; National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.; and the United Way of America.

Local board chair Lauri B.

Ogumoro said that the local board is charged with distributing funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the world.

"The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program," said Ogumoro.

The local board, which is made up of the Mayor of Saipan, Karidat, NMI Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area.

Previous recipients of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds in the CNMI have been Karidat, the Mayor's Office, and the Division of Youth Services.

In order for a local agency to receive funds, they must abide by the terms of the grant from the National Board: 1) be a private voluntary non-profit or unit of government; 2) have an accounting system; 3) practice nondiscrimination: 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and 5) have a voluntary board if it is a private voluntary organization. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Private or public voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds are encouraged to contact Lauri B. Ogumoro, Phase 26 Local Board Chair at 234-6981 or at the main office

The deadline for applications is Thursday, March 27, 2008.

ve-fire training on Farallon

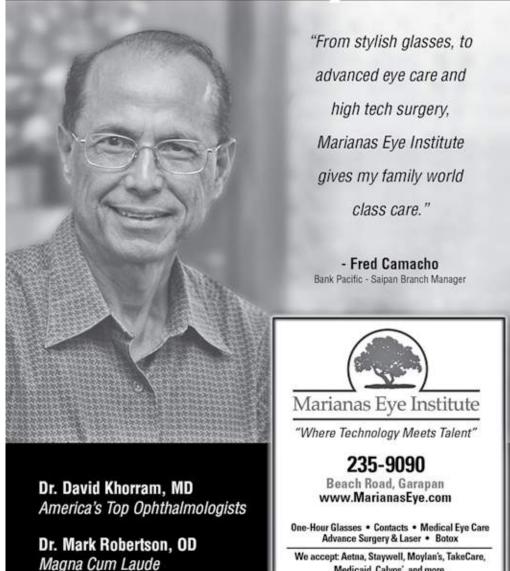
The CNMI Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla.

The training will be held on March 10, 14, 17, and 21, from 7am to 10pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

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A Systems Approach to Placement (SAP): A Holistic Technique by Dr. Mandan Kundu

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Madan M. Kundu, Ph.D. is the Project Director of RRIUP and Chair and Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University. His areas of research interest are: multicultural/cultural diversity issues, placement models, prediction models for rehabilitation outcome, traumatic brain injury, and independent living.

Targeted audience includes Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Placement Specialist (WIA, OPM, DEST/DOL), Rehabilitation Assistants/Technicians, Students & Rehabilitation Professionals.



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MBC to film culinary show in N

MBC Korea is back in the CNMI to film "See the Food, See the World" which will feature the culinary experience on the island of Saipan. The filming will take place March 12 - 20.

The show will film at various hotels, restaurants and tourist attraction sites on Saipan, including a homemade Chamorro meal. The goal is to film two or three 10-minute episodes to air in Korea. Two representatives from MBC will be part of this project.

"See the Food, See the World" is a food-focused documentary program featuring a variety of internal food and ing MBC back to the CNMI,"

culinary cultural experiences in different parts of the world. The show airs Monday – Thursday at 5:20pm with approximately 2,200,000 viewers. The estimated exposure value for the CNMI is \$94,000 per episode.

"We look forward to welcom-

said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Our explosive growth in arrivals from Korea is a testament to how well MBC and other media outlets reach the outbound Korea travel market and how well they showcase

our islands." (MVA)

GTA TeleGuam donates \$5K to TASI group

TAMUNING, Guam—GTA TeleGuam has donated \$5,000 in support of the Tradition About Seafaring Islands (TASI) organization.

TASI is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of indigenous seafaring traditions in the Pacific region, assisting in the construction of traditional canoes, teaching navigational and sailing skills and educating the public on the lost art and customs of ancient sailing.

Dan Moffat, president and CEO of GTA TeleGuam said, "GTA is proud to support organizations such as TASI that are dedicated to promoting and preserving our island heritage. TASI is special to us because GTA's symbol is the Proa canoe, which represents speed and technological excellence and is the ultimate symbol of seafaring in the Pacific. We are proud to support groups such as TASI who work to revive and preserve past cultural practices that reflect the island's history."

Frank Cruz, president of TASI remarked, "We are thankful for the generosity of companies like GTA TeleGuam and appreciate this donation which



GTA TeleGuam donates \$5,000 to the Traditions About Seafaring Islands organization (TASI). Pictured from TASI are Ron Acfalle, vice president; Frank Cruz, president and Manny Sikau, master navigator. Presenting the donation is Marie Mesa, vice president of GTA TeleGuam's People Department.

will help us to continue in our efforts to revive our island custom of seafaring."

GTA TeleGuam is Guam's diverse work force of 350. For leading, full-service telecom- more information, visit www. munications company with a

gta.net. (GTA)

Solomons village terrorized by fierce crocodiles

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—There is growing concern among visitors and residents of Buala, Isabel Province in the Solomon Islands over the increasing number of fierce crocodiles in the Maringe Lagoon.

Isabel Chief Dennis Lulei said RAMSI [Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands] and the Isabel Provincial Government must attend to this problem immediately.

"These reptiles are threatening the lives of people in the area," Chief Lulei said. "What is more worrying is the aggressive, intimidating, fearless and intrusive behaviour and conduct of these deadly reptiles."

He said the crocodiles have caused great fear, anxiety and stress among the children, men and women of Buala and Maringe areas.

"The unashamed presence and daily sightings of these crocodiles have infringed the people's rights of freedom of movement, their right to swim, fish and wash in the waters," he said

Chief Lulei said that the crocodiles are breaching the basic constitutional and human rights of the people.

Martin Taoni, a Tangarare man, said something must be done soon to curb this problem. Mr Taoni, is a survivor of a frightful crocodile attack, in his village.

He said RAMSI must make it a mission to hunt crocodiles in the rivers around the country.

"I don't want to see a repeat of what happen to me to others in my village," Mr Taoni said.

Last week, residents of Tetere with the help of RAMSI killed another 12-foot crocodile that had been threatening the lives of people in the area.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Seabird thought extinct found in PNG MELBOURNE, Australia

(Radio Australia/PIR)—A rare sea bird, not sighted for more than 80 years and believed to be extinct, has been rediscovered in waters off Papua New Guinea. The critically endangered "Beck's petrel", was found in the Bismarck Archipelago, in the south-west Pacific Ocean, north-east of PNG by a British team of scientists. A spokesman for the conservation group, Birdlife International, Nick Askew, says the discovery is important and efforts have begun to find the birds' breeding area and preserve the species. A reported sighting of a Beck's petrel by an expedition in Australian waters

in the Coral Sea two years ago, Rare Birds Committee.

Australia seeks to host 2009 **Pacific Forum**

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—Australia's Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, during a press conference in Honiara, stated that Australia would seek to host the forum meeting in 2009, a move welcomed by both PNG and Solomon Islands. "It has been some 14 years since Australia hosted a Pacific Islands Forum and by 2009 it will be 15 years, so it's over due for Australia to host this important gathering of all the island states of our

most immediate region. I thank PIR)—Bougainville's Carterets was rejected by the Australian the two Prime Ministers (PNG islanders are reportedly goand SI), representing two significant nation states within the Pacific Islands Forum family for their support for Australia hosting this important event," said Rudd. Rudd has already received a positive response from his counterpart in PNG and in the Solomon Islands. "Solomon Islands support Australia's bid to host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in 2009," stated Solomon Islands Prime Minister Dr. Derek Sikua.

Rice bound for hungry PNG islanders goes missing

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/ ing hungry after a big potion of food rations destined for the island went missing while on transit between Buka and Carterets. The Carteret Islands are located 53 miles northeast of Bougainville. Tulele Peisa, a non-government organization (NGO), said last week the Buka-based Atolls district office promised to freight 250 bales of rice on local boat MV Sibona to the starving island population. However, they claimed only 155 rice bales were distributed to families on the Carterets, adding that in Yosala, 23 bales was distributed to 32 families where individuals received four packets of rice each.



MARCH 12, 2001

CUC cuts power in gov't offices

Power and water services in several government offices on Rota and Tinian have been ordered disconnected today due to the Administration's failure to reach an agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. CUC had hoped to collect past due utility bills or at least reach an agreement with the CNMI government that would guarantee meaningful monthly payments.

PSTF needs \$23M to pay beneficiaries in territories

The Prior Service Trust Fund may face bankruptcy by 2002 unless the US Congress appropriates the needed financial allocation to pay out more than 4,100 families in trust territories. Arriving from a recent meeting held in Hawaii, Retirement Fund Board Chair Vicente Camacho disclosed the financial status of Prior Service was comprehensively discussed, exploring all other options to guarantee continued payment of recipients until 2045.

DPH Told: Reconcile with Queen's

Health officials have been asked to reconcile with the management of Queen's Medical Center to continue medical services for thousands of CNMI off-island medical referral patients. The Legislature said it is willing to draft measures that will enhance medical programs and eventually improve the Department of Public Health's medical services.

MARCH 12, 2002

Aliens mob asylum forms

A mad scramble among aliens-mostly Chinese and Bangladeshi-broke out at an American Memorial Park meeting Sunday night, as they struggled for possession of limited asylum application forms that may be their key to permanent residency in the "Land of Milk and Honey" and a possible American citizenship. "When I came, I was told by an observer that there was like a mad rush to the stage, and they grabbed the applications," said lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola, who was a guest at the gathering. "One observer said there was fifty applications, and they were all gone."

Chamber urges Babauta to hire lobbyist

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is urging the Babauta administration to follow in the footsteps of its predecessors and retain the services of Washington lobbyists who could help the CNMI protect its interests in Washington D.C. In a letter addressed to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Chamber president Richard A. Pierce said that, although the Murkowski bill has been removed from the Senate calendar, thus removing imminent threats of a federal takeover, a similar bill may be introduced through the Senate Judiciary Committee, where immigration matters rest.

Local firm ready to take on desalinization

A local company is now positioning itself to take on the task of implementing a pilot desalinization project that is being touted as the future solution to the ever-dwindling supply of water in the Commonwealth. This comes in the wake of the recent passage of House Resolution 13-33, which asked the administration and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to expedite the implementation of a desalinization plant for Precinct III as a pilot project.

MARCH 12, 2003

NMI wants slice in \$50M tourism promo funds

Local leaders are eyeing the Northern Marianas' share in the \$50million tourism promotion budget that the U.S. Congress and President Bush appropriated for the promotion of foreign travel to the United States, including U.S. insular territories. House Committee on U.S. and Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep. William S. Torres has encouraged the Marianas Visitors Authority to seize the opportunity of securing a slice of the \$50-million pie.

War veterans visit Saipan

As talks of war escalate and military build-up continues, some veterans are going back to the places in the Pacific region where they saw combat action during World War II, telling of war stories and the horrors they experienced in that war. Yesterday saw the CNMI welcoming such a group, with Gov. Juan N. Babauta himself leading other government officials in welcoming the veterans during a brief noontime ceremony at the American Memorial Park.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Deadline extended for Cook a Rainbow Challenge

The deadline to register for the Cook a Rainbow Challenge has been extended to Wednesday, March 12.

Registration forms are available at www.deq.gov.mp or by calling the Diabetes Ofice at 664-4030. The forms must be submitted no later than 4pm on March 12, attention to Tayna B. Camacho or Ling Rabauliman at the CNMI-Diabetes Prevention and Control Program located at Navy Hill #N-16 (across the old Lighthouse). Entries may also be submitted via fax at 664-4020.

Judging will be based on taste, creative presentation, texture, use of fresh local ingredients and originality. This year, participants will need to include a reef fish in their recipes.

The contest takes place on Saturday, March 29, at the Sabalu Market in Susupe and is coordinated by the Ayuda Network, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, NMC-CREES, PSS-Headstart, DPH-Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information about the Cook A Rainbow Challenge, contact Camacho or Rabauliman at 664-4030. (DEQ)

MMAC Committee, **Team Captains'** meetings today

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will have a team captains' and committee meeting today, March 12, 2008, at 5:30pm, at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all previous and current MMAC team captains to attend this important monthly meeting where information regarding the upcoming 2008 MMAC event will be discussed. The MMAC Committee meeting will be held immediately after. All committee members are encouraged to attend.

The MMAC Committee is inviting all community businesses and residents to help in the fight against cancer by contributing to this worthy cause in any way they can. For more information, email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. (MMAC)

Amateur radio licensing exam today

The next VE session offered by W5YI-VE sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club will be held today, March 12, 2008 from 6pm to 8pm, at the classroom of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. For more information, contact Bong at 321-8888 or email at mdx@mdx-radio.net

Walk-ins will be accepted, although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the Technician Class who want to upgrade must bring the original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSCEs.

A valid ID will also be required. If you do not have a photo ID, bring two ID forms. at least one of which shows your current mailing address. The 2008 exam fee is \$14 for all elements.

The exam session will be administered by the MDX Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner under the W5YI Volunteer Coordinator.

VEs wanting to assist in the exams should bring their VE IDs. Only VEs with valid ID are allowed inside the examination session. (PR)

Military ID Cards personnel sets visit

This is to inform all military personnel and their dependents that the ID Card people will be on island from March 17 to 21, 2008, to issue and renew military ID cards. The hours of operation are from 8:30am to 6pm.

For more information, contact SSG Noel Chargualaf at 322-6680 or SPC Tanya Songsong at 322-6670. (PR)

Zoning Board village meetings

The Zoning Board will be holding village meetings on the following dates, times, and places: Wednesday, March

5:30pm NMC Student Center Monday, March 17, 6:30pm,

DanDan Elementary cafeteria Tuesday, March 18, 6:30pm, Tanapag Elementary cafeteria

Wednesday, March 19, 6pm, WSR Elementary cafeteria

Beautify CNMI award nominations deadline

The committee chairs of Beautify CNMI are seeking nominations for their annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards. The two awards will be given out at the annual Beautify CNMI anniversary dinner to take place on March 27. The deadline for nominations is this Friday, March 7 2008.

There are two award cat-

egories: the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion. To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition.

Send nominations to Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or mail them to PO BOX 505149; Saipan, MP 96950 or call the PTI sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462 for more information. (Beautify CNMI)

Local families needed to host students

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is expecting 30 young Japanese students from the Oshima Maritime International High School of the Tokyo Met-

ropolitan Government of Japan. The students will be arriving

on March 21, 2008 and they will be here on Saipan until March 28, 2008. The students will be on island for a weeklong educational trip.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is inviting Saipan families to sponsor these young students from Japan for about a week. The Saipan Mayor's Office is still looking for interested families to open their homes and to help sponsor these young students.

If you are interested on hosting and sponsoring a student, or two students, contact the Mayor's Youth Programs coordinator Olinka Chaudhry at: 234-6208, 234-6280, or 235-7304. (PR)



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The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law. HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY of COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS for PROGRAM YEAR 2008

> NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of \$2,020,822 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. MMHC anticipates receiving \$1,374,719 in Community Development Block Grants (CDGB); \$583,259 Home Investment Partnership (HOME); and, \$62,844 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PXY) 2008

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable ng, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows

 On Rota, March 18, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office, lst Floor, Sunset Villa Hotel;
 On Tinian, March 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and, 2. On Timan, March 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/MHC Office in San Jose 3. On Saipan, March 20, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garap

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing is available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

10 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Oceans at risk

here is no shortage of scientific studies documenting the degradation of the world's oceans, the decline of marine ecosystems and the collapse of important fish species. Several have appeared in the last month. What is in short supply is a sustained effort by world governments and other institutions to do something about it.

Last month, a team of American, British and Canadian researchers concluded that not a single square foot of ocean had been left untouched by modern society, and that humans had fouled 41 percent of the seas with polluted runoff, overfishing and other abuses.

A narrower but no less scary study from the University of Oregon found that a dead zone off the Oregon coast had spread south to California and north to Washington and devastated marine life in one of the world's most productive fisheries. The culprit is believed to be global warming, which has changed the interaction between wind and sea in ways that rob the fish of oxygen.

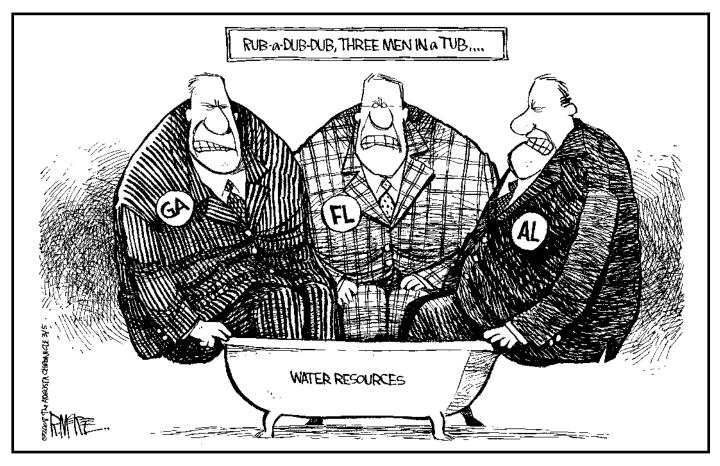
A third study is the latest legislative report card from the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, established to push Congress and the administration to do a better job of protecting America's waters and to play a more active role globally. Washington policy makers get no grade higher than a "C" in any category, ranging from financing for scientific research to fisheries management.

The United States has to do better but so, too, must the rest of the world. A case can be made that the United States has been more sensitive to ocean issues than other major fishing nations, including Japan and the maritime members of the European Union. The problems are global and so, in the end, are the solutions.

The United Nations could do far more. Successful in banning huge drift nets, it has made few inroads on bottom trawling, a ruthless form of industrial fishing. And it has gone nowhere in its effort to persuade Japan and the European Union to stop their assault on the world's shark populations, which have been decimated beyond belief. The World Trade Organization could also usefully limit the huge government subsidies that allow most of the world's industrial fleets to stay afloat.

Last year, President Bush, who is weak on many environmental issues, created one of the largest protected marine reserves in the world—138,000 square miles of largely unspoiled reefs and shoals near Hawaii. He should replicate that achievement elsewhere in American waters and persuade other leaders to do the same.

And he must keep the pressure on Congress to approve, finally, the Law of the Sea. Without that approval, the United States will have no voice when decisions are made about rights of passage, exploring the ocean floor and fishing. The United States should have that voice, and the rest of the world needs to hear it. (NYT)



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"ve been working on a little project, and I need your help. First, however, a little background.

THE BEST OF SAIPAN

Saipan has a lot to offer the world. Included in my ongoing list of assets I've been compiling, soon to be spun into a fabulous marketing brochure are: Saipan's world-class diving, which includes shore-diving not available many other places, Eagle Ray City, a dive site with a dependable congregation of Eagle Rays (fish) not likely duplicated anywhere else in the earth's oceans; the Grotto-recognized as a top dive site; coral reefs of amazing bio-diversity and inestimable value!

There's the paradise weather. (I've been told that Saipan holds the Guinness World Record for most consistent temperature. The average difference between night and day is greater than the average difference between winter and summer.) Divers have told me pretty much the same thing in regard to the days of dive-friendly weather we have here. There's our proximity to the Marianas Trench--the deepest part of the world's oceans; there's the untouched wilderness, breathtaking geography and geology—with our own volcanoes—of the Northern islands. There's a probable untold chapter to the Amelia Earhart disappearance; We've got the unique Chamorro and Carolinian culture, as well as the multiplicity of other cultural influences that exist here from rule by and relationships with Spain, Germany, Japan and the United States; ancient artifacts of the world's earliest cultures; and there's the historical significance to World War II.

I added kingfisher bird to my list when I learned that that bird's unique song, along with about 10 other species, aren't heard anymore on neighboring Guam due to the tree snake impact.

I had to add "Shinto Shrines" to that list a few weeks ago when a visitor to WeLoveSaipan.com sent me the following email:

"I found your website while trying to research Saipan. I will be vacationing there in mid-March. I have found hints to information about the abandoned temples and shrines Japan built during WWII but I'm having trouble finding any information on where these places are or even a detailed map of the islands! I was hoping to take photography of the sites to bring back to Japan with me. Most of my coworkers here in Japan have no idea Japan occupied Saipan or that Shinto shrines exist outside of Japan. Any help you could give would be a huge assistance!"--from Japan

But there's more. More than just a place to visit and vacation, Saipan is also piquing interest among those looking to relocate, retire or reconnect.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



I received this

"Can you tell me if Europeans are welcome to Saipan or are there any immigration restrictions for non-U.S. citizens? Is it possible for a foreigner to purchase a small house? Somehow it just looks like the perfect place to spend my life after I'll be retired in a few years." from someone in Switzerland. And this:

"...since Gardenia closed down, where can I buy that delicious mango pie?" from a former CNMI resident now living in Guam

The list of questions goes on and on. I'm sure you may even have some of your own from strangers, friends or family who've asked you what life here is like over the years.

All of this and more just goes to show that things we take for granted, things we see (or even don't see) everyday here can be a source of interest (and even income) for us. Which brings me to my project.

I've just launched a new website called SaipanLiving.com. It's intended to answer in a definitive, all-inclusive way the question "What's it REALLY like to live on Saipan?"

PICK A PERSPECTIVE

People come here for a variety of reasons including the tourist experience, the American cultural/shopping experience, the island experience, the retiree experience, for sun, sea, and sand, and, of course, economic betterment. Those who come to live long-term invariably focus and become "experts" on a specific perspective that defines their overall experience. If you're a passionate diver, for example, then you can answer better than most the question, "What's Saipan living like for a diver?" If you're a passionate pet-owner, then you are uniquely qualified to answer "What's it like living on Saipan as a pet owner?" Similarly, if you identify yourself as Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, young, or young at heart, Saipan living can be a different experience for you than for your neighbor who shares a different perspective. And that's where I need your help. Pick a perspective and send me the answer to a question. Any question. Your choice. What's it like being Bangladeshi on Saipan? What's it like being a contract worker on Saipan? What's it like being a pet owner on Saipan? Single? Parent?

The SaipanLiving.com website has a list of topics you can choose from, or you can create your own based on your own perspective. If you think you have a unique perspective that needs to be heard, then write about it! (I've nominated myself to answer the "What's

See SAIPAN on next page

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations Mt. Carmel, thanks Rosemond

"Competition breeds quality" and the Mock Trial competition offers the very best that we can offer students in the field of criminal justice. Needless to say, the competition continues to breed quality, which was evident in this year's competition. The students of KHS and myself want to extend a big congratulations to Mount Carmel for being King of the Hill in the Mock Trial competition this year. Your accomplishment speaks volumes of the hard work you must have put in and it proves that competition really does breed quality. Kudos to all the students, coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero, attorneys Ed Buckingham and Joe Taijeron—a job well done with an honor well deserved. We

We (students & coach) also want to thank our attorney Rosemond Santos for her devotion and the great coaching job she did with getting us to the semifinal round for the first time, which is just more proof that the competition is breeding quality. Congresswoman Rosemond is truly committed to helping the people and children she represent and we thank her from the bottom of our hearts. We are also very proud of our own future attorney, Mercylnn Kenishi, for winning the Best Defense Attorney award. A-Y-U-Y-U for YOU!

Kagman High has now captured the title of Top Prosecutor and Top Defense Attorney since we began participating in the competition with only the Best Witness not yet being captured. It is our ultimate goal to capture the Championship and all three awards in the same competition. Our slogan is "we'll be back & better Ayuyus". To those schools like us that didn't win the competition this year, we are still winners because we *all* got *better*. Mt. Carmel just got much better and we can only be happy for them. But just remember, competition breeds quality. Continue to work and see you in the final round

Each year the Mock Trial competition has gotten better and better. For those of you who don't know what you missed, you *missed it*. Students were transformed in *real* attorneys and witnesses. Some of the performances were so good that they can only be equaled on shows like Law & Order or in real

life—the quality was just that good. There were many smiles from being proud and even a few tears from defeat and from the joy of just moving on to the next round. We're sure each and everyone there was touched in some way by the competition and it was truly an inspiring experience for all the students that participated. Wishing Mount Carmel the very best in the National Competition and looking forward to seeing everyone in next year's competition.

Debra Buekis, Witness
Daisy Demapan, Attorney
Joserine Mendiola, Attorney
Juhmil Esposo, Attorney
Christian Yamada, Attorney
Paul Teregeyo, Witness
Alexandra Silva, Witness
Mercylyn Kenish, Attorney
Tharnton Camacho, Attorney
lesah Joyner, Witness
Kenlyn Butters, Witness
Tahya C. Dela Cruz, Witness
Yvonne Bennett, Time Keeper
Paul Murphy, Teacher Coach
Ambrose M. Bennett, Teacher
Coach

'Start helping people and stop destroying businesses'

The Commonwealth Development Authority should stop acting like it is a bank but one which destroys local businesses. Can you say Pacific Gardenia? How about Sunset Villa? The latest example is that with Fred Nosek and Sea Spray Marine. How ridiculous is it that CDA wants Fred to agree to revise his loan with a lower interest, but wants him to agree that CDA can take his boat, the business, and the Navy Hill land if the government does not pay compensation in five years.

Last week CDA's Oscar Camacho reported on the delinquency rate for borrowers with CDA at \$15 million. Those are the people who can't pay. That isn't something that CDA should be proud of. What is CDA doing to help people, instead of destroy-

ing businesses?

Our family was in the marine sports business until the economy started falling apart. What did CDA offer then with the failing economy? Workshops and speeches? I was disappointed to see that CDA is now wanting to destroy Fred's business—one of the last few local marine operators.

CDA wants Fred to agree that it can get his boat, land and business even if the government doesn't pay the money they owe for taking his land. Does Oscar Camacho and CDA have any idea how bone-headed this is from our perspective? Do they even know anything about businesses here on Saipan today? The Government owes the guy money for taking his land. Pay Fred! CDA doesn't care. It

only wants to destroy instead of help or develop business.

CDA is part of the government, even though it often acts like the independent Commonwealth Banking Authority (or the Foreclosure Authority). If CDA won't act fairly and all it does is report on failures instead of how it helps, then the Legislature should shut it down. In that way one pocket of the government can pay the other pocket the money it owes Fred's family, and stop wasting Fred's time with threats and for once do something productive. If it won't, then close it down because it is CDA that is delinquent and a failure—not Fred Nosek.

Eloy M. San Nicolas Capital Hill, Saipan

A response to Mr. Critical

To the president of the TaoTao Tano Association:

Number one, my political choices are the business of my own and something I need not explain to anyone.

Number two, a Republican introduced the two proposed initiatives; thus, it is you that has to check your facts

Number three, since its inception and to date, I have yet to see a dime of the so-called MPLT invested monies benefit the NMD population. Therefore, the questions that need to be asked are as follows: (1) Is the Marianas Public Land Trust really investing these mon-

ies for the benefit of NMDs; and, (2) When will these benefits be realized?

Notwithstanding the interests earned from established Trust funds as well as funds retained by the Department of Public Lands for homestead projects and DPL's operational costs (as intended and provided under Sections 5(g) and 6 of Article XI of the CNMI Constitution), where are the remaining invested monies transferred to the MPLT going? What are the intended purposes for these funds?

Number four, unlike you, sir, I do not want the future generations (many of whom are largely NMDs in their own

respective rights) to face the same crises plaguing the CNMI today.

Number five, expressing my views and disagreeing with you does not make me disrespectful. It makes me a proud American!

Again, as a people, we need to come up with much-needed solutions to address the immediate problems plaguing our Commonwealth and quite frankly, I have yet to hear a single one coming from you! Note: This is strictly my personal view.

Kimo Mafnas Rosario Koblerville, Saipan

Apologies to Rep. Benavente

The esteemed writer Robert Burns said, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." In this particular case, I thought I had my bases covered when I first sent in my letter to the editor thanking all of our respective donors. As Burns put it, we can always count on something going wrong even if you take all foreseen precautionary measures. In this case, I unintentionally forgot to mention one of our most valued donors in the process.

Rep. Diego Benavente has always been a dear friend of the people of Rota and by not correcting this mistake I would be doing my island a great disservice. Rep. Benavente, I know you'd probably just say, "never mind, it's nothing"; however, we the committee are deeply apologetic and admire the fact that you came and helped even when no one solicited your help. For this you should be truly proud! On behalf of the 2008 San Isidro Concert committee we extend our deepest appreciation to you and your kind office.

Ross Manglona

Vice-Chairman 2008 San Isidro Fiesta (Saipan) Sub-Committee

How about NMC students?

This comment is on the article that says "Fitial opposes CIP funds redirecting to NMC." I find this very offensive. Not only is he going back on his own words, but he is more concerned about foreigners instead of his own people. He is on the other side, funding PSS and he can't even help the NMC students. Why fund PSS? He says he cares for the students. What about us? Who do you think will run the government in the future? Us, unless he wants foreigners to run it, that is why he is doing this.

I know that our economy is bad. It will be more worse when all the kids leave. What will the tourists think of then? What about us? What will happen to us? Does he want us to leave and find work somewhere else? Then fine, we will end up doing it anyway. By doing this, he is losing the future leaders of the CNMI. So why give money to the other schools, saying that he cares for them when he can't even care for us by doing something to attract more foreigners?

Mary Grace Santos Chalan Kiya, Saipan

Thanks Furey; welcome McPhetres

Seems to me that NMC and all the rest of us might want to express a special thanks to Mrs. Eloise Furey for the years of dedicated service as a member of the Board of Regents. NMC lost a major supporter and a good friend. And as luck sometimes has it, the board is fortunate to be adding a new regent who has already dedicated many years of service to NMC, president emeritus Agnes McPhetres

In addition to serving as the founding president of NMC, Ms. McPhetres has spent a number of years serving on WASC committees, and as such will no doubt bring insights and ideas as to how to proceed with securing accreditation. Current President Fernandez is no doubt pleased to have such a valuable new regent to provide her with mentoring and support.

Speaking of the Board of Regents, how have they been doing? Are they meeting regularly, keeping in close communications with President Fernandez and her staff? Did they recently complete the training that was suggested to them by WASC? How did that go? Might the community receive some kind of an update on their current activities? Seems to me that if time is really

of the essence as the accreditation deadline nears, are "all hands on deck," and working hard?

Lest anyone mistake my intentions concerning my letters to the editor, let me make it clear that I feel the CNMI needs NMC . And it needs NMC to be a properly functioning institution of higher education. To lose accreditation would be a huge loss. For many students on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, NMC is the only viable choice to continue their education after high school. And, of course, it serves other Pacific Islanders and many foreign students. We all need a strong NMC.

That being said, I must also stress that to operate NMC with questionable leadership and governance might even be a bigger injustice. NMC must be impeccable in its hiring and firing practices. All employees must put the school's interests ahead of their own personal interests. Openness, transparency and honesty must be automatic bywords of behavior.

It's time to clean house and get on with the business of running the college. Viva NMC. Go Proas!

Perry Conner As Matuis, Saipan

SAIPAN

From Page 10

Saipan living like as a minimalist, Jamaican, vegan?" Everything else is up for grabs!) Botanist, doctor, parent, teacher, minister, you name it! Everyone's perspective is welcome!

Following the continued success of WeLoveSaipan, which now seems

firmly fixed in Google's top 10 results for searches on "Saipan," we're going to do it again with SaipanLiving! WeLoveSaipan.com was primarily for bloggers. SaipanLiving is for everybody else. That means you! Here's your chance to answer a question you feel is important, directly for the edification of tourists, retirees and other visitors and residents of the CNMI. If you don't, the world may never know

the real story, and you don't have to give your real name.

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at <u>questions@saipanliving.com</u>.

If you don't have an email account,

you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

For more tips on shifting your life to a parallel universe of a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion

Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www. saipanpreneur.com and www.passion-profit.com.

12 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage:

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph

▲82° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲83° ▼77°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▼76°

▲82°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲81° ▼74°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲81° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲ 86	▼ 75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 85	▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	≜ 88	▼ 76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 89	▼ 75
Maiuro	Cloudy	85	7 6

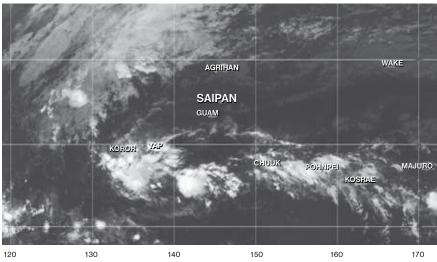
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71	₹59
Beijing	Partly Sunny	≜ 58	₹40
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 69
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲ 79	▼ 71
London	Windy	▲ 48	₹37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73	▼ 54
Manila	Showers	▲ 86	₹76
Melbourne	Cloudy	≜ 85	▼ 70
Miami	Thundershowers	s ≜ 82	▼67
New York	Partly Sunny	▲ 53	▼ 34
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 58	₹40
Paris	Showers	▲ 51	₹41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63	₹44
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 62	▼ 46
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52	▼39
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲ 63	₹51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 55	▼37
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 51	▼ 39

Tides Saipan Harbor I ow Tide: 04:42AM Today 0.9 Feet 10:11AM Today High Tide: 2.0 Feet 05:27PM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Washington, DC Mostly Sunny ▲55 ▼38

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak shear line stretches southwestward from 17N162E to 14N151E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 60 miles northwest of the shear line. A shear line runs westward from 20N180 to 19N170E to the south of Wake Island at 19N166E to the Northern Islands of CNMI at 18N146 to 18N140E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles north of the shearline east of 160E and up to 100 miles north of the shearline west of 160e. A surface trough located northwest of the discussion area extends southwestward from 25N136E to 18N130E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in an area bounded by 16N130E to 20N140E to 20N146E to 25N145E to 25N130E back to 16N130E. This area includes northern-most islands of CNMI and Iwo-to. A surface trough extends southeastward from 10N135e to 4N137E. The surface trough is associated with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms between 4N and 10N from 130E to 140E. This area includes Koror and Yap, Low-level convergent winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 140E to 147E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 7N150E to 6N160E to 3N170E to 5n180. This area includes Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Butaritari and Tarawa.

Sunrise/Sunset							
Today	6:27AM	6:27PM					
Thursday	6:26AM	6:27PM					
Friday	6:26AM	6:27PM					
Saturday	6:25AM	6:27PM					
Sunday	6:24AM	6:27PM					

Mod	nrise/Mooi	nset
Today	09:32AM	10:56PM
Thursday	10:26AM	
Friday	11:26AM	12:01AM
Saturday	12:28PM	01:04AM
Sunday	01:30PM	02:04AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

 For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right
- to choose which pictures to publish

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 9, 2008

ARRIVALS DEPARTURES Saipan-Rota Rota-Saipan CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7 CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1.2.6

Saipan-Guam **Guam-Saipan**

CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1.2.5.6 CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily Daily CO9605 6:30pm CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily

10:20pm Daily

Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya

Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

7:00pm

2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

3:30pm

OZ 606

Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6 **Guam-Manila**

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 5:50pm CO 893 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1.5

Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm

CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily

Manila-Sainan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 OZ 603 8:10pm

Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5

Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror

and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1.5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

1,2,4,6,7

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sa			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-l			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Gu		10.15	D-:1-
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-R FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Sa		4.50pm	Dally
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-l		o.zopiii	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-G	uam		
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-	Γinian		
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

ETA Frequency FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm Daily 5:40pm 5:50pm FRE 123 * Daily FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting

flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am Daily FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily 11:05am 11:15am Daily FRF 112 12:00pm 12:10pm FRE 114 Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm Daily FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122* 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily 6:20pm 6:30pm FRE 126 Daily

NMI CRIME

STOPPERS Anonymous tips can now be submitted

- through the following: ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 - *11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

High-end TSL Plaza is ready for occupancy

Construction work on the threefloor TSL Plaza along Beach Road in Garapan is nearly done and it is now looking for tenants who will occupy the 21 units available at the island's newest building.

Built at a cost of nearly \$5 million, the TSL Plaza boasts of an all-glass façade and covers a floor area of some 28,863 square feet spread out across three floors, with 23,937 square feet subdivided into 21 rentable office spaces of various sizes.

The building, owned by Tan Holdings Corp., features 76 parking stalls including reserved parking, spacious units, an elevator with a capacity for 12-15 people, and its own standby generator with enough power to operate the elevator, air conditioning system and other electrical power needs of the building.

The building's façade is made of tempered, 8mm (5/16inch) thick glass that can withstand 155mph winds. The water tank

is sufficiently capable of storing 17,500 gallons not only for the toilet facility but also for emergency in case of fire.

According to Dave Sablan. president of Century Insurance Co., who is also overseeing the construction, the building is the brainchild of Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

"Jerry decided to invest in a multi-million dollar stateof-the-art building for several reasons: to enhance the beautification efforts for Garapan by building something that is next to none; and to build a 'highend' building that we can all be proud to have on Saipan," said Sablan.

"We are setting the pace in the type of building that we should be constructing on Saipan. The building is dedicated in honor of our chairman of the board, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Dr. Tan and his family have done a lot to enhance our economy. His son, Jerry, is well known to many of us in the community for his personal contributions to the CNMI."

Sablan said this project sig-

nals Tan Holdings' optimism about the future of Saipan. "This is why we went ahead and built TSL Plaza because we must rise above the ordinary and deviate from the military-type concrete structures that have been the norm for decades. We need to modernize our buildings structurally and aesthetically," he added.

Although some of the units will be occupied by the Tan Holdings corporate offices, the rest of the units are available for rent. "We are now a little over 50 percent occupied," said Sablan.

TSL Plaza has commissioned Tim Goodwin of Pacific Rim International to handle the marketing of the available rooms. For those interested in renting a unit at TSL Plaza, contact Goodwin at his office in Garapan by calling 234-9351 or 483-9351.

The building was constructed by GPPC, a Saipan-based construction company.

Sablan said there will be no grand opening for the new building, besides possibly a blessing



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Finishing touches are being done on the TSL Plaza, which is now ready for occupancy.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BID

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

NMHC - IFB08-006A - ROTA IFB NO.:

NMHC - IFB08-006B - TINIAN

FOR: **Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; or Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 27, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Two (2) separate mandatory Pre-Bid Conferences will each be held on the Islands of Rota and Tinian. In Rota, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located on the 1st Floor of the Sunset Villa Hotel in Sonton, Rota on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., and in Tinian, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2008. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Bidders are reminded that this announcement covers two (2) separate bids—one for Rota, and one for Tinian.

Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. NMHC IFB08-006A - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (ROTA)" or NMHC IFB08-006B - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN)". An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, March 27, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, March 27, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than March 27, 2008, and must be received no later than April 7, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time April 8, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on March 27, 2008.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority business and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local lowincome residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

Tinian holds groundbreaking for Natibu Park amphitheater

Tinian officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Natibu Park on Friday, March 7, for the construction of an amphitheater that will become part of the Natibu Park.

This project is funded under the Community Development Block Grant.

Present at Friday's event were representatives of USA Fanter, the winning contractor, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Northern Marianas Housing

In his opening remarks, Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas thanked the NMHC board of directors and corporate director Joshua Sasamoto and all officials who worked to get the project off the ground.

"The Tinian community and the people of this great island is most appreciative for the wonderful projects funded under CDBG. As with other projects



Representatives of USA Fanter, the winning contractor, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. break ground for the new project on Tinian: an amphitheater at the Natibu Park

the Natibu Park is envisioned on Tinian. This park will surely to bring economic activity and showcase some of the island's will be a center for hosting island activities such as outdoor concerts, plays, graduation, fiesta and other important events

activities to our residents as well as provide added amenities to our tourism industry," said San Nicolas. (Jayvee Vallejera)

Show us your best photo for Earth Day

Has your community organization cleaned up a stream? Have you enjoyed a day in the woods? Has a wild animal ever sparked your imagination?

If you've caught anything like those moments in a photo, share it with us! We want to see how you would show EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. Send us your best photos in three categories:

- Enjoying the environment
- Protecting the environment
- Nature and wildlife

To encourage participation and provide maximum public access, the contest will be hosted on the photo sharing site Flickr. com. People around the world are encouraged to enter.

The contest will run as follows:

- March 24: entries due
- April 1: Finalists an-

nounced, public voting for winners begins

- April 15: voting ends
- April 22 (Earth Day): winners announced

Finalist and winning photos will be featured on EPA's Web

Full details about the contest, including how to enter, visit http://www.epa.gov/earthday/ photocontest. (EPA)

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN Chairman of the Board

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply **14** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Gas prices near records, following oil

prices were poised Monday to set a new record at the pump, having surged to within half a cent of their record high of \$3.227 a gallon. Oil prices, meanwhile, surged above \$108 to a new inflation-adjusted record and their fifth new high in the last six sessions on an upbeat report on wholesale inventories.

The national average price of a gallon of gas rose 0.7 cent overnight to \$3.222 a gallon, 69 cents higher than one year ago, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Last May, prices peaked at \$3.227 as surging demand and a string of refinery outages raised concerns about supplies.

That record will likely be left in the dust soon as gas prices accelerate toward levels that could approach \$4 a gallon, though most analysts believe prices will peak below that psychologically significant mark. In its last forecast, released last month, the Energy Department said prices will likely peak around \$3.40 a gallon this spring; a new forecast is due Tuesday.

Retail gas prices are follow-

China trade surplus drops, exports fall

BEIJING (AP)—China's trade surplus shrank in February as

sales of goods to the United States fell, the government said

Monday, but analysts said exports should bounce back now that

The 63 percent drop in the trade gap from a year earlier was

"We expect the export figures to rebound in March, but con-

tinue to anticipate a more moderate slowdown in export growth

over the course of the year," Jing Ulrich, JP Morgan's chair-

February's trade surplus was \$8.6 billion, down from \$23.7

billion in the year-earlier period, according to China's customs

due partly to a longterm slowdown in export demand, but Feb-

winter storms that disrupted the economy have passed.

ruary was an unusually weak month, analysts said.

woman of China equities, said in a report to clients.

ing crude oil, which has jumped 25 percent in a month. On Monday, crude prices surged to yet another record after the Commerce Department said wholesale sales jumped by 2.7 percent in January, their biggest increase in four years, according to Dow Jones Newswires.

The strong sales report suggested to oil traders that the struggling economy may be doing better than thought.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose \$2.75 to settle at a record \$107.90 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier setting a new trading record of \$108.21.

Energy investors shrugged off a relative stabilization of the dollar and a cooling in tensions between Venezuela and its neighbors Colombia and Ecuador.

Many analysts believe speculative investing attracted by the weak dollar is the primary reason oil has risen so far so fast in recent months. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the dollar is falling.



A customer pumps gasoline into her car at the BP station in Bainbridge Twp., Ohio on Monday, March 10,

Stocks slide on mixed news, surging oil

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street sank Monday as oil's surge above \$108 a barrel and more worrisome signs for the financial sector led investors to extend last week's losses. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 150 points, bringing its three-day loss to nearly 515, while broader indexes showed steeper percentage losses.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 153.54, or 1.29 percent, to finish near the lows of the session at 11,740.15. It was the lowest close for the Dow since October 2006.

Broader stock indicators

Poor's 500 index fell 20.00, or 1.55 percent, to 1,273.37, while the Nasdag composite index fell 43.15, or 1.95 percent, to 2,169.34.

Government bond prices jumped as stocks weakened. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.46 percent from 3.54 percent late Friday.

Investors appeared to shrug off an upbeat report from the Commerce Department that said U.S. wholesale inventories rose in January by 0.8 percent, more than expected, and that sales at U.S. wholesalers rose 2.7 percent, their widest jump since March 2004.

Last week, increasing worries about the economy and the continuing fallout from the credit crisis pounded the stock market. The Dow ended down 3.04 percent, the S&P 500 index was off 2.80 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index closed with a loss of 2.60 percent.

Recent record-breaking surges in commodities prices have worried many investors about whether the Federal Reserve might hesitate to lower key rates by as much as they want at least a half percentage point. Over the past few months, policy makers have cited the staggering economy as a greater risk than inflation.



The front window of a branch of McDonald's in London is seen in this Jan. 28, 2008 file photo.

McDonald's posts strong February sales

CHICAGO (AP)—Consumer spending and confidence may be waning, but people still need that jolt of morning caffeine to wash down an egg sandwich.

McDonald's Corp.'s big push on coffee and new breakfast items in its U.S. restaurants contributed to a double-digit jump in same-store sales last month, accompanying even stronger growth in Europe, the company said Monday.

The world's biggest fast-food chain reported that sales from its outlets open at least 13 months climbed 11.7 percent over a year earlier - evidence that the economic slowdown hasn't dealt it the blow that some investors had earlier feared.

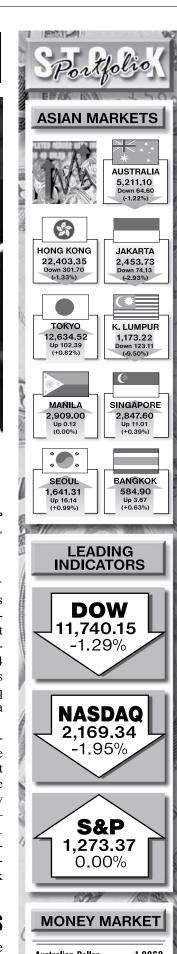
While its new specialty coffees won't be available in all its U.S. restaurants until next year, analysts said they have heard positive feedback on how the products are faring in the

1,000-plus McDonald's where they are served. In the meantime, the company said the premium roast coffee it rolled out two years ago helped fuel U.S. same-store sales growth of 8.3 percent in February.

The new McSkillet breakfast burrito also aided February numbers, as did the weak dollar at international restaurants and the benefit of an extra selling day. The leap year boosted same-store sales by about 4 percent in all, the Oak Brook-based company said.

European same-store sales grew by an impressive 15.4 percent on strong results in Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

Two straight months of solid results to start the year have reassured investors worried about the impact of the economic slowdown. McDonald's shares rose \$1.53, or 2.9 percent, to close at \$53.80 Monday.



Australian Dollar 1.0862 **British Pound** 0.4981 Canadian Dollar 0.9931 Chinese Renmbi 7.1065 0.651 Hong Kong Dollar 1.7894 40.471 Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah 9,215 Japanese Yen 101,96 3.1975 Malaysian Ringgit New Zealand Dollar 1.2591 Philippine Peso 41.264 Singapore Dollar 1.3884 South Korean Won 970.1 1.0196 **Swiss Franc** Taiwan Dollar 30.6 **Thailand Baht** 31.59 In U.S. dollar terms Source: Associated Press

Nation

Scandal puts Spitzer's career in danger

NEW YORK (AP)—Gov. Eliot Spitzer's political career teetered on the brink of collapse Monday after the corruption-fighting politician once known as "Mr. Clean" was accused of paying for a romp with a high-priced call girl.

The Democrat faced immediate calls to step down after a news conference in which a glassy-eyed Spitzer, his shellshocked wife at his side, apologized to his family and the people of New York.

"I have disappointed and failed to live up to the standard I expected of myself," said the 48-year-old father of three teenage girls. "I must now dedicate some time to regain the trust of my family."

He did not discuss his political future and ignored shouted questions about whether he would resign. And he gave no details of what he was apologizing for.

But Spitzer was clearly examin-



New York State Gov. Eliot Spitzer is joined by his wife Silda as he makes a statement to reporters during a news conference Monday, March 10, 2008 in New York.

said the governor had retained the Manhattan law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind Wharton & Garrison, one of the nation's biggest.

Spitzer was caught on a federal ing his legal options; a spokesman wiretap arranging to meet in a Washington hotel room the night before Valentine's Day with a prostitute from a call-girl business known as the Emperors Club VIP, according to a law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on.

The governor has not been charged, and prosecutors would not comment on the case.

But an affidavit based on the wiretap told of a man identified as "Client 9"—Spitzer, according to the law enforcement official—paying \$4,300 in cash, some of it credit for future trysts, some of it for sex with a "petite, pretty brunette, 5-feet-5 inches, and 105 pounds," named Kristen.

The scandal came 16 months after Spitzer stormed into the governor's office with a historic margin of victory, vowing to root out corruption in New York government in the same way that he took on Wall Street executives with a vengeance while state attorney general.

But his first year in office was marred by turmoil, and the latest scandal raised questions about whether he would make it through the week.

death confesses

Cops: Suspect in Auburn

ACROSS THE NATION **Space shuttle poised** for night launch

AUBURN, Ala. (AP)—A man charged with killing an Auburn University student told police he tried to rape her before he shot her, according to documents read in court Monday as several thousand of her peers gathered for a memorial service. Lauren Burk, an 18-year-old freshman from Marietta, Ga., lived in an apartment near campus and was found on a roadside about 5 miles from the university; her car was later found ablaze in a campus parking lot. The documents read in court, sworn to by a police detective, said suspect Courtney Lockhart, 23, described verbally and in writing how he abducted Burk from the university, robbed her, drove her around, told her to take her clothes off and shot her with a handgun.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)-Space shuttle En-

deavour was poised for a rare nighttime launch Tuesday

to the international space station and the longest visit

ever to the orbiting outpost. All seven astronauts gave

a thumbs-up as they boarded the van for the ride to the

launch pad late Monday. "All right, here we go!" said

commander Dominic Gorie. "Wooo!" shouted his co-pi-

lot, Gregory Johnson. Earlier in the evening, NASA filled

Endeavour's external fuel tank; everything went exactly

as planned. Endeavour's seven-man crew will deliver

a new Japanese compartment to the space station—the

first of three lab installments - as well as a Canadian ro-

bot designed to help with outside maintenance.

Tibetans protest Olympic torch in SF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tibetan immigrants protesting Chinese control of their homeland vowed Monday to make San Francisco, the only U.S. city to host the Olympic torch relay, the focal point of American demonstrations against the Beijing Games. Demonstrators unfurled a Tibetan flag over the flight of white stone steps leading into San Francisco City Hall and held a portrait of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, above the crowd next to banners saying "Olympics in China, Torture in Tibet," and "Truth is our only weapon." The protesters, some wiping away tears while singing the Tibet national anthem, also called on Mayor Gavin Newsom to reject the April 9 torch run and urged city officials to pass a resolution calling on China to improve conditions for Tibetans in their homeland.

AP water probe prompts Senate hearings in April

By MARTHA MENDOZA

Two veteran U.S. senators said Monday they plan to hold hearings in response to an Associated Press investigation into the presence of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.

Also, U.S. Rep. Allyson Schwartz, D-Pa., has asked the EPA to establish a national task force to investigate the issue and make recommendations to Congress on any legislative actions needed.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, who heads the Senate Environment and Pub-

lic Works Committee, and Sen. Frank Lautenberg, chairman of the Transportation, Safety, Infrastructure Security and Water Quality Subcommittee, said the oversight hearings would likely be held in April.

Boxer, D-Calif., said she was "alarmed at the news" that pharmaceuticals are turning up in the nation's drinking water, while Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat who said he was "deeply concerned" by the AP findings, both represent states where pharmaceuticals had been detected in drinking water supplies, but not disclosed to the public.

GOP moves to force immigration vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans are trying to force action on a Democratic-written immigration enforcement measure, the latest GOP attempt to elevate the volatile issue into an electionvear wedge.

Republican leaders hope that by pushing the bill - endorsed by 48 centrist Democrats and 94 Republicans - they can drive Democrats into a politically painful choice: Backing a tough immigration measure that could alienate their base, including Hispanic voters, or being painted as soft on border security in conservativeleaning districts.

The plan is fraught with political risks for both parties. A full-blown immigration debate could call attention to Republicans' divisions at a time when their expected presidential nominee, Sen. John Mc-Cain, is fighting to gain the trust of the GOP base.

McCain, R-Ariz., played a prominent role in failed legislative efforts to grant some of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already here a path to legal status, which conservatives deride as "amnesty." He now says he would consider such a plan only after the borders have been fortified.

House Republicans are eyeing a bill by Rep. Heath Shuler, D-N.C., that would do just that, as well as mandate that employers verify that their workers are in the U.S. legally.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL

: ACTION : NO. 06-459 CORPORATION, Plaintiff. EUGENE M. BABAUTA and ANGELA L. BABUTA, Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in nis matter on December 5, 2007. I will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 064, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 949 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003 dated July 12 1989, Commonwealth Recorders File No 90-1671. the description therein being

Date, Time, and Place of Sale, The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008 at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionee

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL : ACTION : NO. 06-502 CORPORATION, Plaintiff, JOSEPH S. TAITANO and EMELYN N. TAITANO, Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in matter on October 25, 2007, Lwill sell. public auction, to t he highest bidder, on the erms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 514, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 767 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4178, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL : ACTION : NO. 06-504 CORPORATION, PRISCILLA T. CASTRO, Defendant.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, this matter on August 2, 2007, I will sell, at terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow. Defendant in and to the following property Lot No. 011 G 702, situated in Kagman III Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands containing an area of 800 square meters more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Pla No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993 nmonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being rated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general public

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL : ACTION : NO. 06-506 CORPORATION, NIEVES OLOPAI ROMOLOR, Defendant.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 27, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to t he highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property Lot 011 G 492, situated in Kagman III, Northern Mariana containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 01 dated December 1, 1993. Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4178, the description therein being

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctionee

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL CORPORATION, NO. 06**-**509 D Plaintiff, HONORA A. KOSHIRO and : SALVADOR S. KOSHIRO, :

Defendants. : FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in matter on September 28, 2007, Lwill cell at public auction, to t he highest bidder, on the erms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 197, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 795 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 04 dated December , 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4412, the description therein being ncorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale, The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL : ACTION : NO. 07-007 CORPORATION, Plaintiff, JOSE F. I. KAPILEO and the ESTATE OF LONA P. : PHILLIP, Deceased, : Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that. this matter on December 13, 2007. I will sell. at public auction, to t he highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 179. situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northerr Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,104 square meters more or less as shown on which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Bo. 16702 on March 11, 1983 the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center. supe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 22nd day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

16 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

India bars Tibet protest march

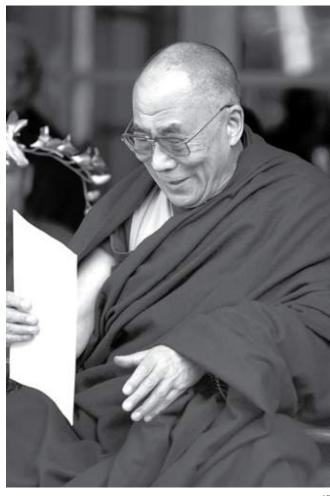
DHARMSALA, India (AP)—Indian police barred hundreds of Tibetan exiles from marching to Tibet to protest Beijing hosting this summer's Olympic Games Monday, while Tibetans in other countries commemorated their 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

Protesters rallied in the Indian capital, New Delhi and Katmandu, Nepal, where hundreds of activists clashed with police. Pro-Tibet demonstrations also took place in San Francisco and Olympia, Greece, birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games.

The march in Djarmsala got under way on the anniversary of the failed uprising that forced the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, into exile in 1959. Dharmsala is the seat of the Tibetan government in exile.

A recommendation by the Indian government led to the order banning the marchers from leaving the area outside Dharmsala where they stopped for the night, local police chief Atul Fulzele said.

Tenzin Tsundue, one of the march leaders, said the Tibetan exiles have not decided whether to defy the ban



The Dalai Lama smiles at a function to commemorate the Tibetan Uprising Day at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharmsala, India, Mon-

defy the ban. diverts plane because of liquids

BEIJING (AP)—China disclosed Monday that suspicious liquids were found on a flight headed to Beijing from a far western Muslim region, and Olympic organizers tried to dismiss fears that the summer games were under threat.

The government announced over the weekend that authorities had foiled a plot by Islamic terrorists targeting the August games and also said there was an apparently unrelated attempt to crash a passenger jet on Friday.

Scant details were initially released about the reported plot or the airplane incident.

However, China's head of civil aviation said Monday that the flight from the far western Xinjiang region to Beijing had been diverted after some passengers were found with suspicious liquids.

China Southern Airlines CZ6901 landed in Lanzhou, in western Gansu province, to safeguard the passengers, the authority said in a notice on its Web site. No other details were given.

The head of Xinjiang's regional government earlier described the incident as an at-

tempt to crash the plane.

Olympic organizers voiced confidence Monday about security arrangements for the games in Beijing

"An efficient Olympic security command system is in place," Sun Weide, a spokesman for the organizing committee, told The Associated Press. "We're confident of holding a peaceful and safe Olympic Games."

The International Olympic Committee also said it believed proper security measures were in place.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Insurgent violence jumps in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. says insurgent and terrorist violence in Afghanistan increased sharply in 2007. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said there were over 8,000 conflictrelated deaths and an average of 566 incidents per month in 2007. That compares with an average of 425 incidents per month in 2006. Ban said in a report to the U.N. Security Council on Monday that while the insurgency draws strength from some Afghans, the support of foreign-based networks remains crucial. The violence in Afghanistan is at its highest level since U.S. forces invaded the country in 2001 to oust the hard-line Islamic Taliban rulers. The Taliban harbored al-Qaida leaders blamed for planning the U.S. terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

RP, Indonesia to set up terror DNA databank

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine and Indonesian police are planning to set up a DNA databank to help rapidly identify captured or slain members of the al-Qaida-linked militant group Jemaah Islamiyah, a top police official said Monday. National police chief Avelino Razon said the anti-terrorism project would be developed with Interpol's help and integrated into the police in-

formation systems of the two countries _ both key U.S. anti-terrorism allies. Razon said he discussed development of the databank with Indonesian officials on the sidelines of an international police conference in Hong Kong last week. Police in both countries will focus on obtaining DNA samples of the relatives of dozens of Jemaah Islamiyah members known to be hiding in the southern Philippines, he said.

Interpol suspect in pedophilia trial

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A Canadian arrested after Interpol unscrambled his swirled digital images from Internet photos went on trial Monday in Thailand, accused of sexually abusing a 9-year-old boy. Christopher Paul Neil, a 32-year-old teacher who worked in several Asian countries, has pleaded not guilty. He was arrested in Thailand on Oct. 19, 2007 after Interpol issued a global appeal to help apprehend him. Shackled and smiling, Neil waved to a friend and said, "How's it going?" as he entered Bangkok's criminal courthouse. He wore an orange prison uniform, his feet were bare and he was chained to another prisoner. Neil is accused of sexually abusing a 9-year-old Thai boy, who contacted police after seeing Neil's face on television following his arrest. The child claims Neil paid him \$15 to \$30 to perform oral sex in 2003.

World

5 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber killed five U.S. soldiers as they chatted with shop owners while on a foot patrol in central Baghdad on Monday, the deadliest attack on American forces in the heavily fortified capital in more than eight months.

The bombing, just four days after nearly simultaneous blasts killed scores of people in a vibrant Shiite commercial district, again showed the insurgents' ability to strike inside a capital secured by hundreds of security checkpoints, U.S.-funded neighborhood watch groups and hundreds of miles of blast walls that surround buildings

and cordon off districts.

The military insists that recent attacks do not point to a growing trend in violence, and continues to tout the security gains achieved over the past year.

At any rate, the push over the past six months to place U.S. bases inside neighborhoods and get soldiers out of their armored vehicles increases the Americans' vulnerability to attacks. While the face-to-face contact from foot patrols builds goodwill, it also gives suicide bombers, who often slip past security vehicle checkpoints by walking, better access to striking soldiers.

On Monday, the soldiers were walking in a shopping district of the predominantly Sunni Mansour neighborhood when a man in his 30s detonated his explosives about 30 feet away, said a police officer who witnessed the attack. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to the media.

Four of the soldiers died at the scene, and the fifth died later from wounds, the military said. Three other American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were also wounded in the attack, which military spokesman Maj. Mark Cheadle said was "was reported to us as a suicide bomber."

Iraqi police said two civilians were also killed.

Fraud leaves Guatemalan babies in limbo



Guatemalan children awaiting adoptions swing in chairs at the Casa Quivira children's home in Antigua, west of Guatemala City, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)— Luciany Ball's adoption file says she was born 14 months ago by Caesarean section to a single mother who gave her up so she could be raised by a loving family in a six-bedroom Indiana farmhouse.

But now some of the documents appear to be fraudulent, part of a slew of irregularities at the agency handling Luciany's adoption that have left dozens of babies in danger of being seized from their anguished American adoptive parents. The probe also casts a cloud of

uncertainty over some 2,900 pending U.S. adoptions.

Prosecutors describe their probe of Casa Quivira - considered Guatemala's best adoption agency - as their first serious attempt to investigate a \$100 million industry that has made tiny Guatemala the largest source of American babies after China.

The system has delivered 29,400 Guatemalan children into U.S. homes since 1990 - so many that one in every 100 Guatemalan babies born each year was growing up in an American home.

But after a monthslong investigation that began with the seizure of 46 babies from Casa Quivira last August, prosecutors say they found fraud cloaking the true identities of at least nine children and that half their birth mothers couldn't be found at all.

The fraud points to much deeper problems with the flawed adoption system that Guatemala replaced in January, and casts a cloud of uncertainty over the backgrounds of thousands of children now growing up in America, The Associated Press has learned.

Vatican updates thou-shalt-not list

VATICAN CITY (AP)—In olden days, the deadly sins included lust, gluttony and greed. Now, the Catholic Church says pollution, mind-damaging drugs and genetic experiments are on its updated thou-shalt-not list. Also receiving fresh attention by the Vatican was social injustice, along the lines of the ageold maxim: "The rich get richer while the poor get poorer."

In the Vatican's latest update on how God's law is being violated in today's world, Monsignor Gianfranco Girotti, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, was asked by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano what, in his opinion, are the "new sins."

He cited "violations of the basic rights of human nature" through genetic manipulation, drugs that "weaken the mind and cloud intelligence," and the imbalance between the rich and the poor.

"If yesterday sin had a rather individualistic dimension, today it has a weight, a resonance, that's especially social, rather than individual," said Girotti, whose office deals with matters of conscience and grants absolution.

It's not the first time that the Vatican has sought to put a modern spin on sin. Last year, the Vatican took on the problem of highway accidents, issuing a kind of "Ten Commandments" for drivers against the sins of road rage, alcohol abuse and even rudeness behind the wheel.

Vatican officials, however, stressed that Girotti's comments broke no new ground on what constitutes sin.

On the environment, both Pope Benedict XVI and the late Pope John Paul II frequently expressed concern about the fate of the Earth. During Benedict's papacy, Vatican engineers have developed plans for some Holy See buildings to use solar energy, including photovoltaic cells on the roof of the auditorium for pilgrims' audiences with the pontiff.

John Paul also dedicated much of his long papacy to condemning the gap between have and have-nots in speeches in his travels throughout the world as well as in writings.

"The poor are always becoming poorer and the rich ever more rich, feeding unsustainable social injustice," Girotti said in the interview published Sunday. SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 17

Campus Life

How to pick the right school for your kids

By JAY MATHEWS

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WASHINGTON—This is the time of year many parents seek advice on how to find a good elementary, middle or high school, public or private, for their children. Here are 10 suggestions, in no particular order. As you'll see in recommendation number 10, your own thoughts and feelings should always be the deciding factor.

1. Buy an expensive house and you can be almost sure that the local school will be good.

This is an admittedly cynical notion, but there is truth in it. Newcomers often say to themselves, "Let's find a school or school district we like and then find the house." In areas where parental affluence is closely tied to educational quality, if you buy a pricey house, the nearest school is almost guaranteed to be what you are looking for.

2. Look at the data.

In the Internet age, there are plenty of ways to check the achievement levels of public schools that interest you. Most major school systems have Web sites that provide information on test scores, courses, extracurricular activities and strengths of each of their schools. But don't judge schools just by average test scores. They usually are better measures of the wealth of the parents than of the skill of the teachers.

3. Talk to parents of at least two unrelated children in different grades already enrolled in a school that you are considering.

Your real estate agent might know some parents you can call, or the school principal's secretary will have the names and numbers of a few PTA leaders happy to talk to parents. Ask them about the school's strengths and weaknesses. Find out how well the school serves children whose interests are similar to your children's, and always ask what they think of the principal.

4. Visit the school and ask to speak to the principal.

I think checking any school you find attractive should include at least a 30-minute conversation with the principal. He or she is the person who is most responsible for the quality of the teaching, the atmosphere in the halls and whether your child will be looking forward to going to that building every day. Ask this person what the school's strengths and weaknesses are, what should be changed and what the school can offer a child like yours. Ask yourself, "Would I hire this person to work in my office?" If the answer is no or, even worse, if the principal has no time to see you, beware.

5. Listen to your kids.

Many of us, in our conscientious desire to find the best schools for our children, sometimes forget to ask them whether they want to go to the place at the top of our list. Many elementary and middle school students are going to find the question mystifying or boring, but high schoolers are old enough to have useful things to say. If they are putting up a fuss about your choice and have in mind an alternative that is not significantly more expensive (if it's a private school) and passes the tests in points 3 and 4, you might seriously consider letting them go there.

6. The most competitive high schools do not necessarily lead to acceptance at the most selective colleges.

Many parents think that if their kids can get into the private school where all the Su-



You can read all the charts, interview all the neighbors, decide the principal is a saint and still not like one school as much as another. Go with your instincts, not the statistics.

preme Court justices sent their children, or into the public magnet school that rejects 80 percent of its applicants, they are guaranteed admission into the Ivy League. The opposite is true. A 1997 survey of more than 1 million high school seniors by Paul Attewell of the City University of New York Graduate Center found that, except for a few superstars, attending a very competitive high school hurt students' chances of getting into a very selective college. The reason is that selective colleges take only a few students from each school. A student with a 2200 SAT score is not going to stand out at a high school with several 2300s, but will be at the top of Yale's list in a school that has only one or two seniors who score over 2100. (The top score is now 2400.) Of course, those competitive high schools will still give your child a great education, and perhaps that is more important than which college sticker you get to put on your car.

7. Don't worry about elementary school.

The fact that you have read this far means you are an energetic parent who puts great emphasis on education and who, I would guess, has been reading and talking to your children since they were infants. You have filled your house with books. You make learning exciting. All the studies show that you are going to have much more influence over your child's academic achievement through sixth grade than the elementary school you choose. So as long as the school is safe and you like it, it really doesn't matter whether its test scores are not the highest. Your child is still getting a

great education because of you.

8. There are no good middle schools.

I am exaggerating for effect, but there is some truth in this outrageous statement. It is an itchy age, pre-adolescence. You will discover that no one will have many nice things to say about whatever middle school you pick, even the one full of millionaires kids. Children that age are just too difficult to teach. So look beyond the weariness of the teachers and parents who have to deal with those raging hormones and look at how hard the school tries to get every student through Algebra I by the end of eighth grade. If at least half the students reach that goal, it is a very good school. If fewer than 25 percent of a school's students meet this benchmark, you might want to look elsewhere.

9. Look for challenging high schools.

These days, that means schools that have many Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses, and that encourage all interested students, no matter what their grade-point averages, to take those courses and the independently written and scored AP or IB tests.

10. Listen to your heart.

You can read all the charts, interview all the neighbors, decide the principal is a saint and still not like one school as much as another. Go with your instincts, not the statistics. You have to be happy with the choice if you are ever to hope that your children will be in a mood to learn.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

GTC PTA meeting tonight

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School would like to inform all parents and guardians that there will be a PTA meeting today, Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Tataga Carnival at TES

The Tanapag Elementary School will be holding a fundraising event called the Tataga Carnival on March 15 at the school grounds. Alice Igitol, vice president for the school's PTA, said that there will be many booths selling food and drinks and many informational booths featuring guests from different government agencies. The school is inviting all schools in the CNMI to participate and visit the carnival for a day of fun.

MHS calendar of events

March 14 3rd Quarter Exam (3rd and 4th periods)
March 17 3rd Qaurter Exam (1st and 2nd periods)
March 19-28 No classes (break)
March 31 Classes resume (4th Quarter begins)

April 21-25 SAT10 tests
May 2 No classes (Intercession Day)
May 5-16 Advanced Placement Tests

May 12-16 Standards-Based Assessment Tests
May 26 No classes (Memorial Day)
May 31 MHS Commencement Ceremony

June 3 4th Quarter ends

For more information, contact 237-3206. (PR)

Meeting for NMC graduation candidates

Candidates for the Spring 2008 Northern Marianas College Graduation are asked to attend a meeting on March 14, 2008 at 6pm at Building J (Student Center). Important issues such as graduation requirements, rehearsal dates, and the selection of a keynote speaker and a graduation representative to the Graduation Committee will be discussed.

Storytime for Toddlers

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is hosting "Storytime for Toddlers" every Monday at 10:30am, with Wendy Rider, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Children of our Homeland Center. (PR)

WSR Elementary School March events

March 9- 15
March 12
March 12
March 12
March 12
March 12
March 12
March 15
March 16
March 17

March 15 Kinder-5th Math Court Competition, MHS March 17 St. Patrick's Day (Wear Green Day)

March 18 3rd Quarter ends

March 22 Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies

Parent Seminar

March 19-20 State-level Professional Developments Day (no classes)

March 21-28 Easter Break
March 24 Commonwea

March 24 Commonwealth Covenant Day Holiday March 29 CNMI American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon

March 31 4th Quarter Begins

WSR's library is open to the community Monday through Fridays from 2:30pm through 7pm. The library will also be open during Easter Break (March 25-28). We are encouraging the students and parents to use the services in our library.

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 is now finalizing details for the upcoming 25th Year Reunion and will have a meeting on Friday, March 14, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the Kilili Beach Pavilion This will be our last general meting until further notice. There will be a "surprise" guest of honor present at this meeting, so please mark your calendars!

Contact any of the Steering Committee members for details:

Tonnei Camacho @483-9665 Viola Kaipat @483-0214 Jane Tudela @483-5262 Frances Mildred Cruz @483-0995 Ester Teregeyo @285-6284 Ben Sablan @287-1480 Diego Songsong @287-4300

SSHS PTA meeting set

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, there will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria.

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Island Snapshots



The late Vicente "Ben Ki" M. Concepcion's wife, Mariana "Ki" Concepcion, tearfully looks at Ben's memorial monument after being unveiled at the Grotto Saturday afternoon.

Vicente "Ben Ki" M. Concepcion's only son, Capt. Lawrence Concepcion, shares special remarks about his father with over a hundred people who attended the memorial monument unveiling ceremony at the Grotto Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



e invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember the Thirtieth Anniversary of the passing of our dearly loved, Mama Charo...

ROSARIO ATALIG HOCOG

Daily mass will be offered on the following days and times at the San Isidro Church, Sinapalo 1, Rota:

March 6th and 7th at 7 p.m. March 8th and 9th at 5 a.m. March 10th to March 13th at 7p.m.

On the final day, Friday, March 14th, 2008, Mass of Intention will be offered at 5:30 p.m., at San Isidro Church, followed by the Holy Rosary at the residence of Ms. Tita A. Hocog, Sinapalo 1, Rota.

Kindly join us in prayer as we remember our loved one.

Tito S. Hocog, Children & Families



MATH COURT WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Lead Math Court coordinators, Ms. Liz Hofschneider, KHS; Marjorie Ann Cuerdo, 7th grade HJHS, 4th place; Edu Banaag, 8th grade, 1st place; Kenlyn Butters, KHS, 4th place Advanced Math; Terrence Duenas, KHS, 1st place in Algebra and Advanced Math and 3rd place in Geometry; Loremel Aguelo, KHS, 4th place in Algebra and 2nd place in Advanced Math; Harry Jun, SIS, 7th grade, 1st place; Minhee Lee, MHS, 2nd place in Algebra and 2nd place in Geometry; Chan Hwi Park, MHS, 3rd place in Algebra and 1st place in Geometry; Ms. Janet Aniceto, SSHS, coordinator. Back: other math court coordinators, Ms. Damiana De Guzman, MHS; Ms. Jennifer Mendiola, SSHS; Ms. Bloosom Inos, CoJHS; Ms. Victoria Saures (with baby), MHS; and Ms. Iris San Nicolas, MHS. Other winners are not in the picture.



MISS TEEN 2008

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Clair with
2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja and 2007

Little Miss Marianas princess Kassandra Royal after
the Miss Teen pageant held Saturday at the Palms



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MHS Studio Production crew with adviser Jojo Alepuyo after the Miss Marianas Teen pageant night.



JACQUELINE HERNANDE

Members of the Project Impact group strike a pose after entertaining the crowd with dance presentations.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Madonna, Mellencamp inducted to rock hall

By DAVID BAUDER

AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEWYORK(AP)—Madonna, pop music's quick-change artist, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday and paid tribute to people who encouraged her and even critics who panned her for helping drive her career.

Heartland hitmaker John Mellencamp, with his son Speck playing guitar and his parents watching from a balcony above the Waldorf Astoria Hotel ballroom, joined the rock-kicking with a rumbling version of "Authority Song."

"I wrote this song, and I still feel the same way today as I did when I wrote it 25 years ago," Mellencamp said.

Philly soul producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, literate songwriter Leonard Cohen, British rockers the Dave Clark Five, and surf instrumentalists the Ventures were among the other inductees.

Madonna recalled a teacher who encouraged her to follow her dreams when she was only 14.

"Thirty-five years later, people are still encouraging me to believe in my dreams," she said at the induction ceremony. "What more could I ask for?"

Even the people who "said I was talentless, that I was chubby, that I couldn't sing, that I was a one-hit wonder, they helped me, too," she said. "They inspired me because they made me question myself repeatedly and pushed me to be better."

Singer Justin Timberlake,

upcoming album, inducted her with an innuendo-laden speech.

"The world is full of Madonna wannabes. I might have even dated a couple," said Britney Spears' ex. "But there is truly only one Madonna."

Timberlake told of how he felt ill one day while working on Madonna's new album and she asked whether he wanted a B-12 shot. He said sure, expecting a doctor to show up, but Madonna pulled out a syringe and said, "drop 'em."

After he pulled his pants back up, "she looked at me and said, 'That's top shelf,' and that was one of the greatest days of my life," he said.

"Everything he said is basically true," Madonna confirmed, "but I didn't say 'drop 'em,' I said, 'pull your pants down."

Madonna didn't perform but asked punk rockers Iggy Pop and the Stooges to sing "Burning Up" and "Ray of Light."

At the end, a shirtless Pop said, 'you make me feel shiny and new, like a virgin touched for the very first time," and tossed his microphone to the floor.

Mellencamp talked of having surgery for spina bifida when he was 6 weeks old, saying doctors were worried he would be paralyzed below the neck. The 56-year-old rocker said he never knew of the surgery until his teen years, when a classmate asked him about the scar behind his neck.

His grandmother always whispered in his ear, "Buddy, you're the luckiest boy alive."

"I'm lucky to be standing who helped produce Madonna's here for any number of rea-



Madonna, left, is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Justin Timberlake at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in New York, Monday, March 10, 2008.

sons," said Mellencamp, a heart patient who snuffed out a cigarette as he took the stage.

Fellow Hall of Fame member Billy Joel, who inducted Mellencamp, said, "You scared us a couple of times when we thought we might have lost you a couple of times, even though it might have been a good career move."

The world needed Mellencamp's voice, he said.

"They need to hear somebody out there feels like they do, in the small towns or the big cities," Joel said. "And it doesn't matter if they hear it on a jukebox in a gin mill or on a ... truck commercial.'

Gamble, taking the stage with his longtime partner, invited the audience to answer back his wish for "peace."

"Thank you so much, because that's exactly what our music represented," Gamble told the people gathered at the famed hotel for the annual ceremony,

televised on VH1 Classic.

Patti LaBelle performed a chandelier-shaking rendition of "If You Don't Know Me By Now" to introduce Gamble and Huff. The songwriters and producers created a lush, melodic brand of soul known for their hometown and performed by a variety of artists.

Gamble cited one: Billy Paul's tale of the adulterous affair in "Me and Mrs. Jones."

"There's a little 'Me and

Mrs. Jones' going on here in New York," he said to laughter, hours after New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer was accused of hiring a prostitute.

He dispelled one rumor. The song "MFSB" stood for mother, father, sister, brother, he insisted. For years, others let their imaginations run wild with the initials.

One odd sign of the times: among the favors distributed to guests at Monday's dinner was a box of 30 blank CDs, presumably so people wouldn't have to worry about buying CDs anymore.

The Ventures excelled at what is almost a forgotten art in rock music - the instrumental. Nokie Edwards' twangy guitar gave the band its distinctive sound. They performed their first hit, "Walk, Don't Run," and "Hawaii Five-O."

John Fogerty recalled how he and fellow members of Creedence Clearwater Revival used to hang out in a garage learning the Ventures' songs.

When the Ventures first hit the radio, I would say I was gone," Fogerty said. "The Ventures went on to record 250 albums. Think about that. These days, some of us would be happy to sell 250 albums."

Cohen, a Canadian, is one of music's most highly regarded, if not best-known, songwriters, through pieces like "Suzanne" and the much-covered "Hallelujah." Damien Rice sang the latter song in tribute.

Lou Reed, who was inducting Cohen, carried a sheaf of papers to the stage and read several examples of Cohen's lyrics.

We're so lucky to be alive at the same time Leonard Cohen is," Reed said.

Lisa Marie Presley sues over 'fat' story

LONDON (AP)—Lisa Marie Presley has sued a British newspaper for alleging that she was piling on the pounds because of her unhealthy appetite, her lawyer said Monday.

Presley, who is pregnant, alleges in a suit filed at London's High Court on Friday that the story in Britain's Daily Mail was slanderous and degrading. The newspaper has since reported on the 40-year-old singer's pregnancy.

"Once they got a glimpse of my expanding physique a few days ago, they have been like a pack of coyotes circling their prey whilst eerily howling with delight,"

she said on her blog.

The daughter of the late singer Elvis Presley claims the pictures taken at a Hollywood restaurant last week forced her to go public about the baby she is having with her fourth husband, music producer Michael Lockwood.

"It really upset her," Presley's attorney Jo Paton told The Associated Press. "She

was about to announce her pregnancy and was shocked and hurt by the unkind article about her appearance."

Paton said Presley was seeking an apology and damages. The Daily Mail said the first indication they had of Presley's complaint was when they were served with court documents.

"We are investigating the matter," the newspaper said in a

The child will be Presley's third.

She has an 18-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son from her first marriage to musician Danny Keough, which ended in 1994. She was briefly married to Michael Jackson and to actor Nicholas Cage.

She married Lockwood in January 2006.

Spears' lawyer fights K-Fed's legal fees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' new lawyer has a tip for Kevin Federline: If you're going to ask for your legal bills to be paid, don't leave a \$2,000 tip for the waiter on a \$365 check.

Attorney Stacy Phillips, who recently took over Spears' case, told a court Monday that the pop star has already spent more than \$1 million on her child-custody case and objects to paying nearly a half-million dollars in legal fees for her ex-husband, who has enough money to have recently left the exorbitant gratuity.

Phillips had asked for the hearing to challenge a move by Federline's lead lawyer, Mark Vincent Kaplan, to have Spears pay his legal bills. Commissioner Scott Gordon did not rule during the hearing, part of which was held behind closed doors. Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said the decision may be made Tuesday.

Federline has sole custody

of his two little boys by Spears, who is under the conservatorship of her father, James, following bizarre behavior and two hospitalizations. Federline and James Spears chatted amiably at court.

During the hearing, Phillips said that Federline's lawyers have billed excessively and are entitled to only about \$150,00

to \$175,000. Phillips also said Federline has the money to pay his lawyers himself, citing excessive person- Spears al spending by him.

She said he recently had a \$365 check at a restaurant and gave the waiter a \$2,000 tip.

"God bless!" Phillips said. "If he's willing to tip someone that much for serving him, he should be willing to pay his legal fees."

Kaplan argued that the \$600an-hour fees charged by him and partner James Simon were

for legitimate work in an extraordinary case.

"If the court views this as a simple custody case, I'm in trouble," Kaplan told Gordon.

Kaplan pointed out there were numerous hearings involving Spears' behavior, which created emergencies involving the safe-

> ty of her children. "When you have a

case with monitored visitation, that is not a regular case," he

He insisted that it requires the complete attention of himself and his partner.

"There is no doubt that the petitioner (Britney Spears) had bad judgment and the inability to understand there was bad judgment," he said. "... I was in court between September and January eight times. I had no choice."

Kaplan said every legal move by Federline was to protect the welfare of the children.

Phillips also criticized Kaplan

for courting media attention.

Kaplan said he did not bill for any time he spent with the media, and he asserted it was beneficial to the court to have post-hearing press conferences to explain what happened.

"I think everything done on our side was done because Mr. Federline was trying to protect his children from a very dangerous and fluid situation," Kaplan said.

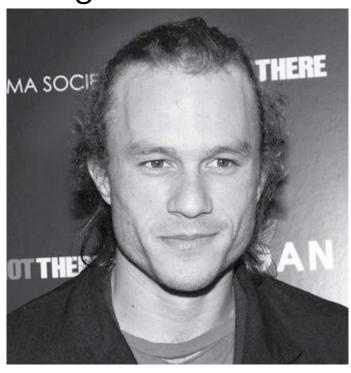
Phillips asserted that since James Spears took over, "I think Mr. Spears and Mr. Federline are light years ahead of the lawyers and the lawyers' time will now be minimal."

The court spokesman said the closed hearing dealt with visitation and there was no change.

After sole custody of Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2, was given to Federline, Britney Spears was not allowed to see them for nearly two months until the former couple agreed to a modification of the court order that has allowed brief visits since late February.

20 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 LIFE SAIPAN TRIBUNE STYLE

Ledger's will leaves nothing to daughter



NEW YORK (AP)—Heath Ledger's will leaves nothing to his former girlfriend and their 2-year-old daughter because it was never updated after they became part of his life.

A copy of the three-page will, filed in Manhattan Surrogate Court, shows the 28-year-old Australian actor left everything he owned to his parents and three sisters. Kim Ledger, the actor's father, has said the family would make sure the actor's former girlfriend, actress Michelle Williams, and that their 2-year-old daughter, Matilda Rose, would be provided for, according to published reports.

Ledger's will has already

been offered for probate in Australia, according to an affidavit by his lawyer, Harvey E. Corn. The document, filed in 2003, offers no hint at the size of the

Papers filed with the will list the "Brokeback Mountain" star's New York City belongings, valued at \$145,000. That amount includes a \$25,000 Toyota Prius, \$20,000 in furniture and fixtures, and \$100,000 in miscellaneous bank accounts.

Ledger's only outstanding debt was the February rent due on the Broome Street apartment where he died Jan. 22 of an accidental overdose of prescription medication.

Actor Heath Ledger attends a special Cinema Society and Hogan hosted screening of "I'm Not There" at the Chelsea West Cinemas, in this

Billy Crystal to don Yankees pinstripes

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Billv Crystal will get to "look mahvelous" in pinstripes. The actor will sign a one-day, minor league contract with the New York Yankees and play in Thursday's exhibition game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Crystal, an avid Yankees fan, will work out with the team on Wednesday and will wear uniform No. 60 for the game - to be played one day before his 60th birthday. The Yankees said Monday they have the approval of baseball commissioner Bud Selig.

for this call." Crystal said in a statement released by the team. "I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of the Yankees and commissioner Selig. I know this'll be tougher than the Broadway Softball League, but I'm looking forward to helping the younger players, which by the way is all of them. Oops, I have to go, Scott Boras is on the phone."

Crystal, according to the Yankees hit .348 and was captain during his senior year at Long Beach High School in New York. He

"I've been waiting 50 years directed and produced "61," a move about Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle and the 1961 Yankees.

> "The Yankees are excited to welcome the newest member of our team known for his humor and wit as well as his undying love for the Yankees," chief operating officer Lonn Trost said.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, after Monday night's 4-0 win over Cincinnati, said he hasn't determined what position Crystal will play.

"That remains to be seen," Girardi said. "Obviously, it's kind of exciting. Billy Crystal has done a lot for this organization. He's always been a big part of it. Our way of rewarding him, saying thanks for everything that you've done."

Country singer Garth Brooks has played in spring training games, helping raise money for his Touch 'em All Foundation. He was 1-for-22 (.045) in 1999 with the San Diego Padres, 0-for-17 the following year with the New York Mets and 1-for-8 (.125) in 2004 with the Kansas City Royals.

'Girls Gone Wild' boss now heads to Florida

RENO, Nev. (AP)—"Girls Joe Francis arrives to a party in Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis is being released from a Nevada jail so he can return to Florida to face charges related to the filming of underage girls.

His lawyer told a federal judge in Reno on Monday that Florida has agreed to lift its nobail arrest warrant against the filmmaker, who is being held here on federal tax fraud charges. Francis has amassed a fortune marketing videos of young women, posing bare-breasted and in provocative situations.

Francis, accompanied by his lawyers, was to travel to the East Coast on Tuesday, and appear in a Panama City, Fla., courtroom the following day to resolve charges from the 2003 filming of girls during spring break, defense lawyer Fred Atcheson said during a brief hearing before U.S. Magistrate Robert McQuaid.

"Florida is not going to arrest him," Atcheson told the court. "What happens in Florida, I believe, will conclude the matter."

Atcheson gave the court a \$1.5 million cashier's check to cover Francis' bail on the tax charges, and assured the judge that other conditions required for his release also would be met.

Francis, who turns 35 on April 1, has been jailed on both sides of the country for nearly a year, caught in a tug-of-war between Los Angeles in this Feb. 9, 2007 file photo.

federal prosecutors in Nevada and state attorneys in Florida.

His legal troubles began five years ago in Panama City, where he still faces four felony and two misdemeanor charges —all that remain from an initial 73-count indictment stemming from the spring break filming. His lawyers contend the underage women lied about their ages to an independent camera operator, and that none of the footage was used.

The incident also spurred a civil lawsuit brought by seven women. When court-ordered mediation in that case collapsed, a federal judge in Florida sentenced Francis to 35 days in jail for contempt of court.

Though he initially posted bail in the Florida criminal case, authorities there revoked it after Francis was charged with having contraband—\$700 and prescribed anti-anxiety medication—while serving his jail sentence.

It was also during that time that a federal grand jury in Reno indicted Francis and his companies, Mantra Films Inc. and Sands Media Inc., on tax fraud charges. A federal judge ordered Francis extradited to Nevada to face those charges over the objections of Florida prosecutors.

Rapper The Game is released from jail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Game is back in play. Los Angeles County sheriff's records show that the rapper was released from jail just before midnight on Sunday after serving just eight days of a 60 day sentence.

The 28-year-old entertainer -whose real name is Jayceon Taylor - turned himself in March 2nd at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

He was convicted last month of possession of a firearm in a school zone after being accused of pulling a gun on a player from an opposing team during a pickup game at a South Los Angeles school nearly a year ago.

The Game's lawyer Shawn Chapman Holley didn't immediately return a phone message left seeking details about her client's early release.

Bloom is off the rose after Valentine's fiasco

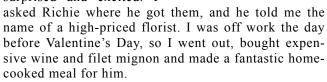
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Richie," and I have been together three years. Richie watches his pennies, so I was very surprised two days before Valentine's Day to return from a family trip and find a gor-

arranged flowers and a small heart-shaped box of chocolates on my coffee table.

geous vase of professionally

I was very impressed, surprised and excited. I



When Richie got home from work, I asked him again where he got the flowers, and he again named the florist. I asked if he really went and got them, and if they were really intended for me. (It was just so out of character for him to splurge like that. The arrangement must have cost at least \$100.) When he didn't respond, I probed some more. He finally confessed they were from a funeral his parents had attended the day before I got home.

Can you believe Richie was trying to pass off flowers from a complete stranger's funeral as nice flowers he got me for Valentine's Day? He lied to me. Now he says I'm ungrateful and that there's nothing wrong with what he did! I told him he is greedy and cheap, and the thoughtful thing to do with leftover funeral flowers would have been to take them to a cancer ward at a hospital or to a local nursing home.

What do you think? Am I overreacting? I'm afraid this may be a deal-breaker.

-ANN IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

DEAR ANN: You're not overreacting. Your feelings are justified. You now know exactly what kind of things Richie is capable of—and being generous to make you happy is not on his agenda. Wake up and smell the flowers. You have glimpsed what your future will be like if you marry him. When it comes to making you happy, Richie will always be playing the angles, and you will be shortchanged because he is cheap.

DEAR ABBY: Will you please suggest a response that will end the conversation when someone comments in a negative way on how young I look, and asks what I have done? I'm 69, but look a decade younger.

I grew up plain and poor, but became a successful professional and changed my appearance. I have had hair and makeup lessons, advice on clothing and cosmetic surgery.

I often receive rude comments from both strangers and acquaintances who have chosen to age "naturally." I'm not interested in answering their sly questions about cosmetic surgery, but because I'm usually accosted in social settings, I don't want to be rude. I just want to make them realize that I consider their questions impolite and want them to shut up. Any ideas?

—PRETTY CAN BE BOUGHT, WACO, TEXAS

DEAR PRETTY (Regardless of how you got that way): Has it not occurred to you to be proud of what you have accomplished? You are a successful professional, and you should enjoy it and all of the "perks" that go with it. You may have grown up plain and poor, but you have turned yourself into a "swan." Why are you defensive about it? If you can help another woman by sharing information, it would be the generous thing to do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a businesssize, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



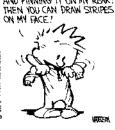
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 21 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! YOU CAN TEACH ME TO BE A TIGER! TIGER RETU SUFFPERS

SEE? WE CAN MAKE A TAIL BY STUFFING A KNEE SOCK



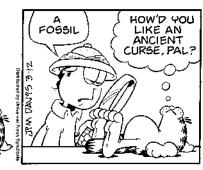
By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

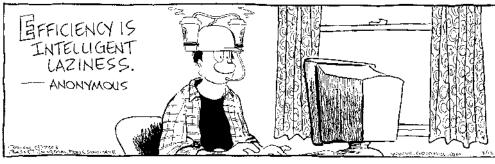


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





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27 Cartoon-

answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18: only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darryl Strawberry, 46; James Taylor, 60; Liza Minnelli, 62: Barbara Feldon, 76

Happy Birthday: You may have difficulty controlling your responses or dealing with matters of a delicate nature this year. You will require patience and an open mind. Look beyond to the end result and you will find your path to victory much easier. Work, education and improving your home environment should be at the top of your to-do list. Your numbers are 2, 15, 29, 30, 45, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It will take a collective effort to get what you want completed. Changes at home will be awkward but necessary. Don't overreact. Rely on past experience to guide you now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't sit back when you can take a power position and push for what you want. The feedback you get from colleagues, friends and lovers will help you make important choices. Get your ideas on the table and your plans moving forward. 🛇 🔾 🔾

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show everyone how valuable you are by utilizing your talents to the fullest. You can handle a delicate situation with kid gloves. Love is in the stars but if you work with the person you are involved with, be careful. 200

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Being hotheaded will lead to trouble with authority figures friends and family. Whatever you do, avoid criticizing others. Change is in order if

you are patient.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A deal, an investment or even a partnership with someone will change your life forever. Don't lose sight of what can be accomplished if you are direct and precise in what you want and what you

can offer. OOOO VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on helping others instead of taking what you can get. Think big and you will make a difference to an organization, group or person who has not got the creative vision you possess. Open communication will result in a long-lasting partnership. 👀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't rely on others to pick up the slack. You will be persuasive but, in order for that to work well for you, you must contribute equally. Money is in the picture but will require some unorthodox means to obtain it. OCOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make your surroundings a place of comfort and it will be easier to work and enjoy what you do from home. A change in plans will turn out to be to your advantage. Someone you least expect will withhold information.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't worry so much about what others say. Instead, concentrate on maneuvering vourself into a better financial situation. Change may not be necessary or a good thing at the moment. You are better off working with what you

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are in a high cycle that will promote success. Take

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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advantage of your good fortune and do as much as you can while the going is good. There is much to be gained in a short period of time if you rise to the occasion and push hard. OOOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful how you deal with friends and family. Someone will take offense if you mention something that was supposed to be kept a secret. A problem with an older relative may become a burden if you don't take care of matters swiftly. ••

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do whatever is required to set standards and make reforms today. Someone you least expect will have a hidden agenda that may derail you if you are caught off-guard. Prepare for the unexpected and you will be hard to beat.

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable. You are a dreamer, an investigator and a planner. You are not one to wait for others' approval and will go it alone if necessary.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

already have. **OOO**

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Vectorday's SIINNKII Answer

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3/12

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WONDERWORD

HOW TO PIAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The

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Yesterday's Answer: Spherical

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) ADS (7DAYS) • 3-Liner

\$35 5-l iner • 3-Liner with picture \$45 • 5-Liner with picture \$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

\$13.00 1st position 2nd position \$5.00 **Succeeding positions** \$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY 🏝



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month. near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 CARPENTER (MW 0012) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

> WHATZIT Solution: A stitch in time

1 AUTO PAINTER (MW 0013) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation.

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. \$400/mo. Call 483-1974.

3 Bedroom House for Rent. San Vicente area Telephone No.: 483-8295

Apartment for Rent in Aslito.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (MW 0016)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Top Development Inc. @235-6072/5.

Contact: Top Development Inc.

Salary:\$3.90/hour. Benefits: \$75.00/

housing allowance; \$50.00/gas

allowance; medical & workers

compensation. Contact: Top Devel-

1 DRIVER, TRACTOR, TRAILER,

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-

cal & workers compensation.

Contact: Top Development Inc.

opment Inc. @235-6072/5.

TRUCK (MW 0015)

@235-6072/5.

(COORDINATOR) (MW 0014)

@235-6072/5

1 TOUR GUIDE

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRER (MW 0017)

Salary:\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Center, Inc. @234-6552.

1 BAKER (MW 0018)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Duties: Specializes in baking of pizzas. Must be familiar with proper temperatures and ingredients. Must be familiar with proper kitchen preparation & clean-ups. Must be familiar & knowledgeable in proper dough rising times for each specialized dough & related duties with the position of baker. Benefits: Company provided housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical provides. Annual vacation, after one year of continuous employment & transportation self provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.



Saturday, March 29, 2008 Set up - 6:30am - 7:30am **Sale - 8:00am - 3:00pm CHC Parking Area**

are limited. Call Kim Prinz @ 287-2428 or email: kprinz@excite.com to reserve your space now

Northern Marianas College P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-54 Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web site: www.nmcnet.edu

Special Board Meeting

STOLEN PASSPORT

Name: Gao, Yueving

Passport No.: G05124346 · Shanghai, CHN

If found, please return black purse & contents.

Phone: 285-7359, 235-0888

Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus Thursday, March 13, 2008 3:30p.m.

AGENDA

- **Preliminary Matters**
 - A. Roll Call
- II. **Public Comments/ Miscellaneous**
- III. **Old Business**
 - A. WASC March 15 Report
 - B. Board Matters
- **Executive Session** IV.

At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

٧. Adjournment

/s/Joey P. San Nicolas Acting Chairperson, Board of Regents

March 13, 2008 Date

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

minstitchute

Marianas Maid

Are you overwhelmed at work?

Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?

LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE ***SPARKLE***

Cleaning services starting as low as \$30 per cleaning. All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available upon request

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

Northern Marianas College Procurement & Property Management Office

INVITATION FOR BID *****AMENDED****

IFB 08-001 - Paupau Beach Marine-Environmental and Marine-Culture Center Demonstration Center Construction Project

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for construction of the Paupau Beach Environmental Marine and Mari-Culture Demonstration Center, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern

Marianas Islands.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may now be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m. There may be a few when picking up a package. Please call 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 for information regarding fees. Construction drawings and diagrams have to be purchased.

There will be a Project Briefing Conference, March 4th, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the NMC As Terlaje Campus, CREES conference room (Bldg. F). Please contact Mr. Glenn Keaton (ext. 1200) or Mr. Lee Bowen (ext. 1728) at 234-5498 for more information.

Bid Packages are discovered by the Actual Conference of the Actual Conference Company of the Conf

Bid Packages are due March 21st, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. All bidders must pay a Bid Security Deposit of 15% of their total bid when submitting bid packages.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC and CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because; it is prohibited by the federal law granting the funding for this project. For bidders located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@mmcnet.edu). There may be a processing fee. a processing fee.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labo

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labol standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour every six (6) months (or next effective dates) until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 that requires recipients of HUD brade and the contractors to below inverse that the accounted requires recipients of HUD brade and the contractors to below inverse that the accounted requires recipients of HUD brade and the contractors to below inverse that the accounted requires requires receiving more requires and the section of the HUD brade and the contractors.

subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1988 that requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and

disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan NMC Procurement & Property Property Management Office Manuel A. Sablan

Glenn Keaton Chair, NMC Sciences, Maths Health & Athletics Departmen

Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (MW 0019)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. **Duties**: May assist in seating, setting-up & cleaning tables, answering questions to customers and other related duties assigned or required with the position of being a waiter. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; selfarranged food; self provided transportation; annual vacation after one (1) year of continuous employment, workers compensation & medical provided. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 SHIFT MANAGERS (MW 0020) Salary:\$3.55-\$5.85/hour. Duties: Performs assigned supervisory duties to ensure effective unit operation, monitor and ensures FAST customer service, he/she interacts effectively with customers by following verbal customer complaint procedure should it be necessary. Monitors and ensures ingredients and products are prepared according to specifications while maintaining adequate inventory levels, while monitoring and ensuring restaurant cleanliness. Ensures adherence to cash control procedures. Complete and uses position sheet to make job assignments while directing the activities of all employees. Ensures compliance with all PIZZAHUT, INC. policies and procedures. Adequately staffs restaurant to meet projected sales. Is responsible for the smooth operation and efficient running of the restaurant during his/her shift. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self arranged transportation, workers compensation and medical provided, annual vacation after one year of continuous employment. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

3 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER REST. (MW 0021)

Salary:\$3.55-\$8.24/hour. Duties: Accountabilities:

- Manages Restaurant Environment
- A. Maintain positive customer
- relations. 1. Ensures prompt, friendly and
- courteous service. 2. Ability to make adjustments
- to meet projected sales 3. Directs activities to employ-
- ees during peak revenue periods.
- 4. Handles verbal customer complaints (advise manager).
- B. Ensures quality products
- Ensures products are made to Hawaii Pizza Hut, Inc. specifications.
- 2. Supervise correct amounts and quality of ingredients prep to meet protected sales.
- C. Maintains physical plant
- Organizes work areas to
- ensure ease of operations. 2. Maintains restaurant cleanliness
- 3. Advise restaurant manager regarding nonroutine prob-
- 4. Maintains opening/closing/ shift change checklist
- D. In-restaurant marketing pro-
- Provides input for promotional
- 2. Maintain positive community

relations

- 3. Maintains point of sales mate-
- II. Manages Employee Perfor-
- mance A. Recruits interview and select employees
- 1. Participates in new employee orientation
- 2. Participates and conducts group training sessions
- 3. Participate and conducts group training sessions.
- 4. Advise manager of employee training sessions
- 5. Maintains positive involvement in all areas of training
- B. Communicates and gives instructions

- 1. Gives instructions to employees to meet job requirements
- 2. Enfore all company policies and procedures
- 3. Set a positive example for employees
- C. Supervise work
- 1. Make job assignments
- 2 Observes performance of employees
- 3. Take corrective actions to ensure acceptable employee performance (advise manager)
- D. Gives feedback
- 1. Teaches employee nonnegotiable standards of performance
- 2. Provides feedback to manager
- 3. Participates in formal performance review
- E. Maintains positive labor relations
- 1. Assures compliance with minimum wage/child labor/ OSHA/EEO/FLSA policies and procedures
- 2. Informs employee of available company benefits
- 3. Responds to employee complaints (advise manager)
- 4. Promotes teamwork
- D. Maintains controls
- A. Participates in planning and budgeting
- 1. Participates in planning and budgeting
- 2. Participates in planning master schedule
- B. Controls labor hours and cost 1. Indentifies deviation from
- desired results 2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)
- C. Controls cost of sales to budget
- 1. Indentifies deviation from desired results
- 2. Develops and executes corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)
- D. Controls semi-variables to budget
- 1. Indentifies deviation from desired results
- 2. Develops and executed corrective action plans (corresponds with manager)
- E. Maintains required daily/ weekly/period financial con-
- 1. Submits accurates reports Complies with cash controls procedure. Contact: Pizza Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

1 . FOOD SERVICE MANAGER

(MW 0022) Salary:\$1 000 00-\$3 740 84/mont-

ly. Duties: Job Summary: The Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Multi-Unit Supervisor. He/she provides overall leadership and direct supervision of operations in an individual Pizza Hut unit to ensure that the restaurant meets or exceeds its Annual Operating Plan. Focal points include: Driving excellence in customer service, maintaining company standards in product and facility specifications, supervising food handling procedures and operational processes, exercising financial control to meet unit profit margin targets, and selecting, training, developing and motivating employees. The Restaurant General Manager directly performs hands-on

behaviors in the restaurant. **Essential Functions:**

1. Customer Satisfaction/Product Quality

operational work (as necessary) to

train employees, respond to cus-

tomer service needs, or otherwise

role model appropriate skills and

- Maintains fast, accurate service, positive guest relations and ensures products are consistent with company quality standards
- Drives customer-focused culture by serving as role

model in resolving customer issues and training managers and crew to meet or exceed customer service standards.

C L A S S I F I E D

- Tracks, analyzes, and resolves sources of customer complaints.
- Ensures that food safety standards are met.
- 2. Financial
- Develops and drives restau-
- rant Annual Operating Plan. Analyzes sales, labor, inventory, and controllables on a continual basis and takes corrective action ot meet or achieve margin and sales growth targets.
- Trains and mentors subordinates on financial analyses and profitability tips for the restaurant.
- Develops store CAPEX requests and is the principle interface with all vendors.
- 3. Operations
- Ensures that facilities and equipment are maintained to Pizza Hut standards
- Monitors inventory, food preparation, and order fulfillment on a daily basis to ensure adherence to company standards.
- Establishes restaurant Speed of Service targets, monitors performance, and resolves bottlenecks to achieve SOS goals
- Oversees development and revision of weekly management and crew schedules
- 4. Human Resources
- Directs all restaurant-level HR activity including: Personal accountability for crew hiring decisions. STP planning and execution, performance management, compensation, and employee relations issues up
- to and including termination Provides "hands-on" training for management staff in advanced STP modules and develops all Shift Managers and Assistant Restaurant General Managers incumbents to assume higher level responsibilities
- Develops and monitors staffing plans and directs crew sourcing activities.
- Manages the work environment on all shifts to ensure fair and equitable employee treatment, as well as adherence to all company, state, and federal workplace regulations

Success Measures:

- 1. Achievement of Restaurant Annual HQSC performance to plan
- 2. Financial results to annual plan
- 3. Margin Improvement and Sales Growth
- 4. Weekly/Period Restaurant Performance in Sales, Labor, ICOS, and Controllables
- 5. STP Certification Levels, Management Turnover, and Staff Levels
- 6. STP Certification Levels, Crew Turnover, and Staff Levels
- 7. IMD/personal goals achieve-

Knowledge/Skill Requirements

- 1. Delivers Excellence in Customer Service
- Is fully aware of customer needs and ensures that they receive quality products and service. Ensures work is to the correct standard
- Possesses extremely high standards of product quality and speed of service and constantly monitors performance against those standards
- Possesses a strong eye for detail and cleanliness
- Presents a positive image through tidy and professional appearance of self and other employees Interacts with customers in a
- high effective and proactive manner Consistently seeks to improve
- the customer experience.

 Demonstrates and emphasizes to others the importance of a winning customer experi-

A D S

- · Uses customer feedback tools and techniques in making decisions and improving restaurant performance
- 2. Team Leadership
- Supervises others and efficiently coordinates their work
- · Delegates tasks to the most appropriate member of staff
- Is able to remain in control in difficult situations
- Provides clear direction and authority Gets involved in a "hands-

on" manner and leads by

- example
- Is assertive Communicates restaurant goals and a motivating vision; link individual performance to achieving restaurant goals.
- Demonstrates principled leadership and sound business ethics; stands up for what's
- right. Celebrates achievements; recognizes and awards others; generates pride and
- Regularly coaches staff to drive performance against objectives; provides ongoing,
- constructive feedback Demonstrates passion, enthusiasm, and intensity in work: is a role model
- 3. Business Savvv
- Identifies problems quickly; assertively develo9ps and implements solutions; manages restaurant flow to ensure
- customer satisfaction Focuses the team on critical business issues; plans, organizes and delegate work for peak efficiency.
- Ensures understanding and use of available business tools
- by appropriate tem members Accurately analyzes financial data; identifies trends and takes appropriate action; follow-up to ensure 100%
- implementation Understands key business drives and uses this knowledge to build sales and
- achieve margin targets 4. Team Development
- Identifies appropriate staff development needs and action plans and ensures time is available for crew develop-
- Is tenacious in ensuring that all employees receive the opportunity to learn and
- demonstrate new skills Transfers own knowledge to others by clearly demonstrating procedures, maintaining high standards, and "walking the talk'
- Provides resources for development, follows up and gives positive, direct feedback
- Provides ongoing coaching and feedback as well as periodic formal assessment

of progress. **Educational Requirements:**

- 1. Strong preference for internal promote from Assistant Restaurant General Manager position; internal promotes both STP 4 and SERV-SAFE certified.
- High school diploma or GED 1-3 years supervisory experience in either a food service or retail environment
- 4. Demonstrated ability to maintain financial control and to coach and train hourly employees
- 5. Proven ability to drive customer satisfaction, financial performance, and employee satisfaction. Tenure Expectations/Career
- Path: 1. Minimum time in position is
- 12-18 months 2. Potential Career Path:
- Senior Manager Multi Unit Supervisor. Contact: Pizza

Hut of Saipan, Inc. dba Pizza Hut @235-9333.

1 COOK (KOREAN CUISINE) (MW 0023)

Salary:\$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Yokyung Corporation dba Mi Dang Restaurant @235-0077.

1 COMMUNICATION INVENTORY TECHNICIAN (WF 0013)

Salary:\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Guam Cellular & Paging Co. dba Saipancell at tel. no. 235-7243.

1 MAINTENANCE MACHINISTS

(WF 0014) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba Asin's Mini Mart/Fish Market at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 COOK (WF 0015) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba Asin's Catering/Snack Mobile at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 CHECKER (WF 0016) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing at tel. no. 235-6465/2677.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0017)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; selfarranged food: medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Crisanta M. Travilla dba Island Electrical Services at tel. no. 234-8385.

1 STOREKEEPER (WF 0018) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food: medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Susan S. Castro dba Solomon Enterprises at tel. no. 256-7656.

1 BEAUTICIAN (WF 0019) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Paulina A. Pascual dba Hibiscus Salon @788-

1 MASON (WF 0020)

9069/235-5122.

Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER

(WF 0021) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; duty meal only; medical & workers compensation insurance provided. Contact: Kuri Enterprises, Inc. dba Kuri-Ya Restaurant @234-5878.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE (WF 0022)

Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Robert & Agnes Schrack @288-1317.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0023)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical expenses provided by employers. Contact: Leticia R. Stoltenberg dba Janrome Gen. Services @484-2597.

1 HOUSEWORKER (WF 0024)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; transportation self arrange & medical expenses. Contact: Hasinta Omelau @235-6771.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0025)

Salary:\$4.25-5.25/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self arrange food; transportation employer provided; workmens compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. dba General Construction Contractor @235-8531.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (WF 0026)

Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0027) Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Vallev Inn. Inc. dba The Vallev Inn. Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

18 COMMERCIAL CLEANER

(WF 0028) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: None/ Self provided housing; none/self provided food: worksmens compensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Topline Company, LLC @235-5206.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR

(WF 0029) Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Tand T Sakura Corporation @235-8308.

2 REST. COOK (WF 0030) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports

@ 233-3112/3.

1 DRESSMAKER (WF 0031) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports

@ 233-3112/3. 1 FOOD SERVICE SUP.

(WF 0032) Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 HOST/HOSTESS RESTAU-**RANT (WF 0033)**

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation, Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 SALES MANAGER (WF 0034) Salary:\$4.05-\$4.50/hour. Benefits:

Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

Rockets tie 3rd-longest win streak at 19



HOUSTON (AP)— Tracy McGrady pulled the towel over his shoulders, leaned back in his seat on the bench and smiled. The Houston Rockets'

19th consecutive victory was a laugher. McGrady scored 19 points in less than three quarters and the Rockets routed cold-shooting New Jersey 91-73 on Monday night to match the third-longest winning streak in NBA history.

Houston won its 10th straight game by double digits, tying an NBA record last set by the Nets in 2004. The Rockets also won their 13th straight at the Toyota Center, the franchise's longest home-court streak since the 1985-86 team won 20 consecutive games at The Summit.

Most importantly, the Rockets closed within one game of the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs for the top seed in the Western Conference. The Lakers play in Houston on Sunday, but the hype for that showdown can wait.

Houston can match the second-longest victory streak in NBA history with a win in Atlanta on Wednesday night. The Milwaukee Bucks won 20 in a row during the 1970-71 season.

The Rockets held the Nets to 30 percent shooting (24-of-79) to match the league's longest winning streak since the 1999-2000 Lakers won 19 in a row on their way to the first of three straight championships with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal.

Rafer Alston and Luis Scola had 12 points apiece for the

Rockets, who've won 23 of their last 24 games and 28 of their last 31. Houston also improved to 7-0 since Yao Ming's season-ending foot injury.

McGrady's only 3-pointer came in the final minute of the third quarter put Houston up 70-45. He sat out the entire fourth quarter, joking and cheering with Dikembe Mutombo.

Vince Carter scored 13 and Richard Jefferson had 12 for the Nets, who've lost six in a row and nine of their last 12. The Nets shot 9-for-43 (21 percent) in the first half.

New Jersey missed 11 of its first 13 shots and the Rockets built an early seven-point lead. Smothered by Jefferson early, McGrady missed his first three shots.

Sharpshooting Steve Novak came off the bench and hit a 3-pointer and McGrady sank two free throws to give Houston a 22-15 lead after one quarter. Novak finished with 11.

McGrady continued to struggle early in the second quarter. He couldn't handle an alley-oop pass from Bobby Jackson, then bounced a dribble off his foot after a steal, ruining a chance for a breakaway dunk.

After McGrady went to the bench three minutes into the second quarter, Novak swished another 3-pointer and Jackson hit a tough fadeaway to start a 19-5 run that Houston made without its seven-time All-Star.

McGrady returned after a long rest and got his first basket on a drive with 1:46 left in the half. Shane Battier swished a 3-pointer from the corner to

give Houston a 46-28 lead at the break.

McGrady hit a jumper and Battier swished another 3-pointer in the first minute of the third quarter as the lead swelled over 20. Mutombo blocked a putback try by Carter and gave an emphatic wag of his finger to the crowd.

Jefferson drove for a dunk over Mutombo and wagged his finger back at Mutombo, but referee Joe Crawford gave Jefferson a technical foul. Jefferson pleaded about the apparent double standard to Crawford to no avail.



Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady, in white, puts his finger in the air at the end of the basketball game against the New Jersey Nets on Monday, March 10, 2008, in Houston. The Rockets won 91-73 for their 19th consecutive win

The Nets shot better in the third quarter and made a mild rally, cutting the deficit to 14. McGrady hit a running jumper and his only 3-pointer in the final two minutes of the third quarter before calling it a night.

Celtics 100, 76ers 86

At Philadelphia, Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 12 rebounds to help Boston down Philadelphia and reach 50 victories for the first time in 16 years.

The Celtics opened with a 15-0 run, won their ninth straight game and reached the 50-win mark for the first time since they finished the 1991-92 season 51-31.

Andre Miller scored 22 points and Andre Iguodala had 17 for the Sixers, who had an eight-game home winning streak snapped.

Cavaliers 88, Trail Blazers 80

At Cleveland, LeBron James had 24 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for his seventh triple-double of the season, and Cleveland rallied in the second half to beat Portland

It is the 17th triple-double of James' career.

Joe Smith, playing in place of Ben Wallace, who missed the second half with back spasms, scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 25 points.

Spurs 107, Nuggets 103

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and San Antonio beat Denver in the second meeting between the teams in four days.

Tony Parker added 16 points and Manu Ginobili scored 13 and had a career-high 14 assists for the Spurs.

Allen Iverson led Denver with 28 points despite a broken finger. J.R. Smith added 22 points and Carmelo Anthony contributed 18.

San Antonio, which lost in Denver on Friday, snapped a two-game skid and tied the Los Angeles Lakers at the top of the Western Conference.

Magic 123, Hawks 112

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 26 points and 16 rebounds, Hedo Turkoglu had the second triple-double of his career, and Orlando rolled past Atlanta.

Turkoglu had 23 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds as the Magic tied their season-high scoring output. Rashard Lewis added 22 points and reserve Keith Bogans had 19 as the Magic went 15-of-28 from behind the arc.

Joe Johnson scored 27 points and Mike Bibby had 23 for Atlanta, which shot 51 percent for the game, including 11-of-17 on 3-pointers, but trailed by 21 at halftime.

Mavericks 108, Knicks 79

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 points in 22 minutes, then was among four starters who got to take the last quarter off as Dallas polished off a victory over listless New York.

New York trailed by as many as 28 before intermission, then got within 14 points early in the third quarter. Dallas pulled away soon after for its second straight win and a 6-5 record since Jason Kidd arrived.

Zach Randolph and Jamal Crawford, New York's top two scorers, returned to the lineup but it hardly mattered. The Knicks made only one of 13 shots to start the first quarter, then did it again to start the second quarter, setting the tone for their seventh straight loss.

lverson will play with

fractured finger

DENVER (AP)—Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson has a small fracture on his right ring finger but will play against the San Antonio Spurs. The team said X-rays taken Monday detected a non-displaced fracture at the end of the finger.

Iverson was injured in a game against the Spurs in Denver on Saturday night.

The Nuggets are in San Antonio on Monday night.

Heat shut down Wade for rest of season

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade needs time to heal, and the Miami Heat saw no reason to further postpone the inevitable. Wade will miss the remainder of the season so he can further rehabilitate his surgically repaired left knee, which has bothered him for about a year.

He will undergo a powerful shock-wave treatment later this week, and hopes he will be pain free in time for next season.

"I'm doing what's right," Wade said Monday night. "I would love to be out there with my teammates, but in the long run, I think my teammates would love for me to be healthy and be out there with them when we're fighting to get in the playoffs again."

There's no chance of that this year—Miami entered Monday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers with the NBA's worst record, 11-50.

So, with all hope of saving this dismal season gone, Heat coach Pat Riley agreed that the time has come to shut down his All-Star guard.

"There's no doubt it's a function of the record. My God, it didn't take a news bulletin for that," Riley said. "Yes, we aren't going to make the playoffs. It's a lost season. We know that. We don't want it to be a lost career. That's how I look at it."

Wade finishes the season averaging 24.6 points, fifth-best in the NBA.

He will miss Miami's final 21 games, and essentially get about 3 1/2 months off before the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team reconvenes to resume training for this summer's Beijing Games. Riley clearly has some concerns about seeing his franchise's best player expose himself to potential injury, but indicated he won't bar Wade from playing for his country, either.

"That's Dwyane's decision," Riley said. "He wants to be an Olympic champion."

Wade still wants to be part of that, yet acknowledged that playing in China isn't his primary goal right now.

"I'm still committed to the Olympic team," Wade said. "But right now, my focus is on getting healthy."

That's been his focus for some time.

Injuries have been a constant throughout Wade's five NBA seasons, especially since the Heat won the title in 2006. He dislocated his left shoulder last February, returned for the final few games of the regular season, but was so hobbled by knee pain that the high-flyer could barely dunk.

Surgery on both joints followed on May 15, and doctors told Wade it would take a year for the knee to feel normal again. He hasn't been at full strength since, and of late, the pain has been so severe that he could barely get out of bed on Friday.

"It's time to just move on and get him the rest he needs," Riley said. "If it's another 30 days, so be it."

Wade and the Heat have decided he'll undergo OssaTron treatment—a high-tech, high-powered form of shock wave therapy. The non-surgical procedure lasts about 30 minutes, and afterward, Wade will be limited to passive exercise (such as swimming and bicycle work) for the first 30 days. After that, he may return to basketball-related activity.

Riley, who consulted with team physician Dr. Harlan Selesnick about the treatment, said the Heat will have the OssaTron machine delivered "in the next day or two."

"The knee will be hit with shock waves, electrical shock waves," Riley said. "It's actually a pretty painful procedure."

Chris Quinn agreed with that assessment. The Heat guard had OssaTron treatment after last season on the bottom of both feet to relieve heel and arch pain.

"It hurts a little bit," Quinn said. "It felt like if you were to stick your finger in a socket and get shocked."

OssaTron has been used to treat injuries such as plantar fasciitis and tennis elbow when other more conventional treatments fail to bring as much relief as a patient would like. Heat center Alonzo Mourning has undergone the same procedure in the past to alleviate tendinitis, Riley said.

"It's had a lot of great results," Riley said.

Wade becomes the third Heat player who's out for the season

because of injuries, adding to a litany of roster woes in Miami. Mourning and forward Dorell Wright both have knee injuries and will not play the rest of the year.

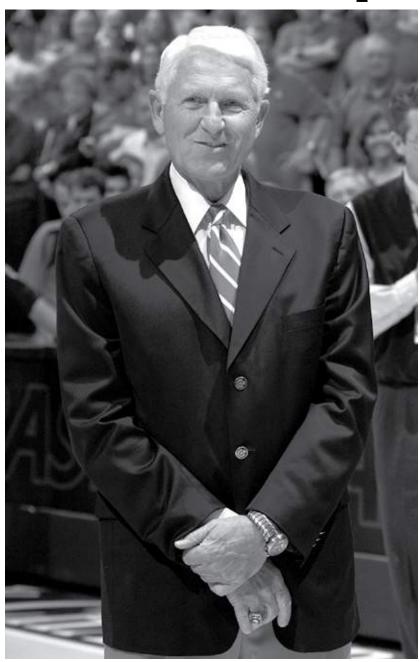
A number of other Heat players are also nicked up right now, including forward Udonis Haslem (ankle), guard Marcus Banks (hamstring) and center Earl Barron (knee). Banks will miss at least a week and possibly more, said Riley, who had eight players - the NBA minimum—at his disposal Monday night.

"It's like one thing after another," Heat forward Shawn Marion said.

A roster spot became open Monday when Miami waived guard Smush Parker, who has been inactive most of the season because of a legal matter. Riley has said that he's considering signing a player or two to a 10-day contract, and one possibility could be guard Brian Chase, who was with the Heat in training camp.

"I can still go out there and play," Wade said. "But I can't be as good, or as whatever I am, as I want to be."

Lute Olson expected to return to Arizona



Arizona's head coach Lute Olson, who is on a leave of absence is on hand today to say farewell to his seniors after the game against UCLA at McKale Center in Tucson, Ariz., Sunday, Mar. 2, 2008. UCLA won, 68-66.



TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)-Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson answered one question on Monday. He'll be

back as the Wildcats' coach at the end of the season, ending his personal leave of absence.

But Olson raised another question when he said in a statement that his leave was necessitated "by a medical condition that was not life-threatening, but serious enough to require time away from my coaching responsibilities."

In a city obsessed with Arizona basketball, that set off alarms because it represented a change from a statement Olson issued on the day he took his leave. He said then he wanted to "reassure everyone that this isn't a health scare, but rather a personal matter that needs my undivided attention."

Monday's announcement was the latest twist in a bizarre season in the desert. Olson announced that he was going on leave Nov. 4, and one month later he said he was extending it through the season-on the same day he filed for divorce from his wife, Christine.

With a 589-187 record in 24 years at Arizona-and a national championship in 1997—Olson is Tucson's No. 1 celebrity resident. Olson is 780-280 in 34 seasons overall, and his return will cause celebration among many Wildcats faithful. Olson's contract runs through 2011.

"We are delighted that Lute will be rejoining the program," athletic director Jim Livengood said in statement. "He is one of the true legends of collegiate coaching, and his return is something that I know will be embraced by everyone who cares about our basketball program."

The 73-year-old Olson, among the state's highest-paid employees, did not speak to reporters Monday. That duty fell to interim coach Kevin O'Neill during a news conference at McKale Center, and he offered no clues to Olson's medical issues.

"I've never asked Lute," O'Neill said.

San Diego stuns Gonzaga to win WCC crown

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rob Jones and De'Jon Jackson keyed a the final buzzer and swarming at midcourt, delaying the trohuge second-half run for the San Diego Toreros, who stunned No. 20 Gonzaga 69-62 to win the West Coast Conference tournament championship game Monday night and clinch their first NCAA tournament berth since 2003.

Showing no effects from needing two overtimes to beat Saint Mary's on Sunday night, the scrappy Toreros (21-13) went on a 19-4 run in the second half to take control and give first-year coach Bill Grier a huge win against his old boss, Gonzaga's Mark Few.

USD had lost 13 straight to the Zags (25-7) since upsetting them in the 2003 tournament title game.

Holding a comfortable lead in the final minute, the Toreros put an emphatic stamp on the upset. Gyno Pomare had a fast-break slam dunk with 25 seconds left, then pumped his fists after making two free throws. Trumaine Johnson had another slam with 7.9 seconds and hung on the rim, drawing a technical foul.

The students then got their turn, rushing the court after

phy presentation ceremony for several minutes.

The Zags must now wait for an at-large invitation, which will be their 10th straight NCAA appearance. They were trying for their fifth straight league title and ninth in 10 years.

Jackson scored 16 points, Jones 15 and Pomare 14, along with 10 rebounds.

Jeremy Pargo had 22 for Gonzaga.

Gonzaga took a 43-38 lead with 13:33 left on Josh Heytvelt's one-handed shot from the key.

That's when the Toreros got hot, going on a run that Jones finished with two free throws for a 57-47 lead with 5:52 left.

The Toreros have won 12 of 14 games. Meanwhile, Gonzaga had its eight-game winning streak snapped.

USD had so much trouble with Gonzaga's defense early in the game that it committed three shot-clock violations in the first 5 1/2 minutes.

The Toreros stayed close, though, and outscored the Zags 14-6 during a 6:25 stretch to take a 30-27 halftime lead.

John Wooden's condition much improved

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Wooden is much improved and may be able to leave the hospital on Tuesday, said the daughter of the former UCLA coach.

"Dad had a good day today," Nan Muehlhausen said Monday evening. "His heart rate is stable and everything is good. He's having a nice turkey dinner right now.

"If everything stays stable, we are optimistic that he will leave the hospital tomorrow."

The 97-year-old Wooden has been treated for a rapid heart rate after he was injured in a fall on Feb. 29. He was hospitalized with a hairline fracture of his left wrist and a fractured left collarbone, injured when he fell in his condo the previous night.

"I just didn't think it was my place. I don't know what medical condition he would be talking about, because I never asked him. I never wanted really to know."

O'Neill served on Olson's staff from 1986-89 and rejoined the Hall of Famer last spring to help shore up the Wildcats' defense. But O'Neill was noncommittal when asked if he would return as Olson's assistant next season.

"I don't know that," O'Neill said. "That's an option, obviously. All I'm going to do is what I do every year in coaching, and this isn't any different than when I was in the NBA or college before. After the season, I take a week or two, think about what is best for everybody and just make my decision based on that."

O'Neill, who joked with reporters throughout the news conference, rejected a suggestion that it would be difficult to become an assistant after being in charge of the program.

"If they were going to say you're not going to get paid any longer, I'd

probably have a problem with that," O'Neill said.

O'Neill said he has enjoyed living in Tucson, but chuckled when asked if he has been renting a home.

"I learned many years ago in the NBA: rent," he said.

It was Livengood who annointed O'Neill the permanent successor in December, shortly after Olson extended his leave through the season.

On Monday, Livengood said O'Neill "has handled a very difficult situation with tremendous poise, and I can't begin to say how appreciative we are of the job he has done."

Livengood wasn't available to the media Monday, but scheduled a news conference for Tuesday.

The announcement of Olson's pending return came as the Wildcats make a last-ditch effort to extend their 23-year string of NCAA tournament appearances, the nation's longest active streak.

Arizona is 18-13 and 8-10 in the

Pac 10 this season—its worst conference record since 1983-84, Olson's first season in Tucson. That's also the last time the Wildcats didn't make the NCAA tournament.

Seventh-seeded Arizona opens the Pac-10 tournament against lastplace Oregon State on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

O'Neill said he didn't believe the stir over Olson's return would create an unnecessary distraction for the team. He praised his players, who have dealt with a coaching change and numerous injuries this season.

"I want to get all the attention on our players as soon as we can," O'Neill said.

The players said they didn't think it would affect them, but acknowledged that it's been a trying season.

"We've been put in a tough spot," senior guard Jawann McClellan said. "K.O.'s been put in a tough spot. But he's put us in a position to get into the (NCAA) tournament."

Seahawks add running back Julius Jones



Now that the Seattle Seahawks have signed Julius

on. The four-time defending NFC West champions announced Monday they had signed Jones, the deposed starting running back in Dallas, to a multivear contract.

Terms were not released, but it is reportedly a four-year deal.

Jones' arrival is further proof coach Mike Holmgren wasn't just appeasing the fan base when he said fixing Seattle's anemic running game was a priority for 2008. Seattle averaged just 4.0 yards per carry in 2006 and 3.8 last season.

It is also the second running back Seattle has signed in the last week, after T.J. Duckett. Two reasons for Alexander to worry.

Jim Steiner, the agent for the 2005 league MVP, told The Associated Press on Monday evening that he will meet

with Seahawks executives about what future—if any—Alexander has in Seattle.

"We're going to have some discus-Jones, Shaun Alexander sions with the Seahawks in the next wants to know what's going few days," Steiner said in telephone interview. "It will be about the running back situation there."

Steiner declined to comment whether the Seahawks have asked Alexander to restructure the \$62 million, eight-year contract he signed before the 2006 season. That was weeks after he set a then-NFL record with 28 touchdowns and a franchise record of 1,880 yards rushing.

Alexander, 30, is scheduled to earn \$4,475,000 in 2008. He has received \$18.8 million in base salary so far on his contract, which Steiner at the time said was the richest ever for an NFL running back. Alexander has also received about \$13.5 million guarantees through signing and other bonuses.

Alexander has had two injury-filled and ineffective seasons since signing his deal, including last season in which he ran for just 716 yards in 13 he replaced Ricky Watters as Seattle's he had the only 1,000-yard season of lead back in 2001. So his trade value is his career, when he rushed for 1,084 lower than ever.

There appears to be no place for Alexander with the Seahawks, in their backfield or on their payroll.

They are reportedly due to pay \$5.5 million to Jones in '08 as part of a new \$16 million contract. Duckett, who signed a five-year deal, and Maurice Morris are scheduled to get \$1 million each. And Seattle still has two other running backs, Leonard Weaver and David Kirtman.

Duckett's signing was thought to potentially be a complement to Alexander to help Seattle mostly in shortyardage situations the Seahawks' have struggled with the last two seasons. But Jones' deal appears to be an indictment of Alexander.

Jones, who will turn 27 in August when Alexander turns 31, spent his games. That was his lowest total since first four seasons in Dallas. In 2006, yards and four touchdowns. Last season, Marion Barber became a Cowboys Pro Bowler while supplanting Jones, who rushed for only 588 yards and two touchdowns, the lowest numbers of his career.

> Jones is capable pass catcher, with 35 receptions in 2005 and 23 last season. Alexander's pass catching has been a liability, even before he wore a cast on a broken wrist throughout the '07 season.

> Seattle has dedicated this offseason to remodeling its running game, hiring former Kansas City offensive coordinator Mike Solari as offensive line coach and signing former Pro Bowl offensive guard Mike Wahle.

The end of the Shaun Alexander era may be next.

Chinese league vet beefs up Tigers frontline all the more

MANILA, Philippines—Jason Dixon, a regular fixture in the Chinese Basketball Association and part of three championship campaigns with the Guandong team, is bringing his act in the local pro league, suiting up with the Coca-Cola Tigers.

If Dixon can hold his ground against the likes Yao Ming, and Bater Menk. Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis is hopeful the 6-foot-9 banger can give the Tigers a tremendous boost in the PBA Fiesta Cup opening late this month.

The team is in search of another import since Favis' other current engagement.

Copeland is a product of Seton Hall, putting in 16.1 points, 4.5 assists, 3.0 rebounds and 1.4 steals a game for the school in the 2005-06 campaign.

Coca-Cola and Air21 are al-

each in the coming tourney for placing ninth and 10th, respec-

> tively, in the Philippine Cup elimination round.

The Tigers have been working out for three weeks now, one week spent under the tutelage of renowned

with Atlanta Metropolitan Col-

lege then Georgia State but had

his experience playing abroad.

He hooked up with the Cabal-

leros de Sinalou team in Mexico

with Georgia State teammate

Cedric Patton at the end of their

Listed 6-foot-9, Morgan also

had a tour of duty in Korea and

played in the NBA Summer

Meanwhile, Talk n Text re-

inforced its frontline with its

acquisition of 6-foot-7 center

collegiate stint.

League last year.

ing Wednesday, the day after he flies in from the United States. He's fresh from another tour of duty with the Guandong Southern Tigers—his team in the Chinese Basketball Association since 1998 or three years after

Philippine Cup.

erty University.

"What I like with the guy is the fact that he's long been playing and winning championships for his team in China. He won't last in the Chinese league if he's a so-so player," said Favis of Dixon.

ending his varsity stint with Lib-

same mentor who handled the

Sta. Lucia Realtors' training in

Boston before the start of the

Dixon joins the team's train-

At 35, the Aurora, Colorado native also has had tour of du-

Wang Zhi Zhi, Yi Jianliang couldn't get his release from his lowed to field in two imports U.S. coach Kevin Barbosa—the ties in Turkey, Israel, Argentina, Sweden and Cyprus.

> Dixon averaged 13.1 points on .514 shooting plus 8.1 rebounds in 58 games with Liberty University in 1995. He was a transferee from Eastern Wyoming.

With Nic Belasco firming up the team's local lineup, Coca-Cola is tipped this early to be one of the teams to figure prominently in the Finals race.

"It's an opportunity we have to seize. Last conference, we were lacking in big men. Definitely, our lineup improved on the entry of Nic (Belasco)," said Favis.

"We'll have an edge playing with two imports. The question is how will everybody sacrifice because it's a given that the two imports will play at least 40 minutes each," Favis added. (www.pba.com.ph)

15

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19) finished second overall in

Other XTERRA Sport age group winners are Rusty Bethke (25-29, 3:12:03); Sean Frink (3:15:36) and Derek Chambers (3:39:39) first and second in the 40-44 age group; and Michael Lindeman (3:11:32) and Fil De Barras (3:22:28) first and second in the 45-49 division. The top individual female in

the XTERRA Sport was Adeana Shendal Greenlee when she crossed the finish line with a combined time of 3:42:23 composed of 17:30 in the swim, 2:51:18 in the bike, and 33:35 in

Beverly Cabanatan (25:05 in the swim, 3:18:58 in the bike, and 27:05 in the run) had a total time of 4:11:08 to finish second in the female division.

2:37:49.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	VV	L	PUL	uр
x-Boston	50	12	.806	_
Toronto	34	28	.548	16
Philadelphia	30	34	.469	21
New Jersey	26	38	.406	25
New York	18	46	.281	33

Southeast Division 41 24

Central Division							
	Miami	11	51	.177	28 1/2		
	Charlotte	24	39	.381	16		
	Atlanta	26	37	.413	14		
	Washington	30	32	.484	9 1/2		

x-Detroit	46	17	./30	_
Cleveland	37	27	.578	9 1/2
Chicago	25	38	.397	21
Indiana	24	39	.381	22
Milwaukee	23	40	.365	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division							
San Antonio	44	19	.698	_			
Houston	43	20	.683	1			
New Orleans	42	20	.677	1 1/2			
Dallas	41	23	.641	3 1/2			
Memphis	15	47	.242	28 1/2			

Northwest Division

Utah	42	22	.656	_
Denver	37	26	.587	4 1/2
Portland	33	31	.516	9
Seattle	16	47	.254	25 1/2
Minnesota	14	48	.226	27

Pacific Division

A. Lakers	44	19	.698	_
noenix	41	22	.651	3
olden State	39	23	.629	4 1/2
acramento	28	35	.444	16
A. Clippers	21	41	.339	22 1/2
	noenix olden State acramento	noenix 41 olden State 39	noenix 41 22 olden State 39 23 acramento 28 35	noenix 41 22 .651 olden State 39 23 .629 acramento 28 35 .444

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 123, Atlanta 112

Boston 100, Philadelphia 86 Cleveland 88. Portland 80 L.A. Clippers 99, Miami 98 Houston 91, New Jersey 73 San Antonio 107, Denver 103

Dallas 108. New York 79

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SML Standings

Korean Dreams	2	U
Rock Steady	2	0
Tanapag Falcons	1	0
D9ers	1	0
Ford Rangers	1	1
Kabur	0	1
Tigers	0	2
Komoro	0	3

SML Box Scores

Ford Rangers 0 - 2 - 3 - 6 - 1 - 1 - 0 = 13 Komoro 1 - 0 - 1 - 0 - 0 - 1 - 0 - 0 = 3

	R	Н	Ε
ord Rangers	13	7	10
(amara	2	7	2

NMIVA Indoor Standings Men's Division

W L PF PA SW

Menudo .	10	3	809	669	30
anians	8	4	729	656	24
lo Fear	8	4	740	686	20
Ol'Aces	8	4	711	692	20
slanders	7	6	751	750	19
łome Boyz	6	7	733	768	19
CH-Hammer	6	7	757	755	18
Beach Jammers	2	10	658	742	11
∕la Numel'u	1	11	600	768	7
Vomen's Division					
Pikan Gaga	9	0	565	469	19

kan Gaga	9	0	565	469	19
oYo's	5	4	548	508	15
eikid	4	5	507	522	14
each Jammers	3	6	500	558	10
a Chagi	1	7	402	474	8

PF-Points scored by team PA-Points scored against team

prospect Donald Copeland

Welcoat tabs Santee, still undecided about Keep, Morgan

MANILA, Philipppines—The Welcoat Dragons will unravel a solid all-around guard and a bullstrong behemoth as they look forward to making a worthy showing in the coming 2008

Smart PBA Fiesta Cup. The Dragons are full of hope as they have signed up a small import in Cory Santee and are about to make the final decision between Jason Beau Keep and Sylvester Morgan.

"We've seen Santee on tapes and we're impressed. Keep and Morgan are highly endorsed. We'll make the decision who to sign up after seeing their video tapes," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria.

Welcoat and Coca-Cola are allowed to field two imports

Father-and-son will be leav-

ing Saipan tomorrow, March 13.

They will stay and practice at the

Japan National Youth Olympic

"There are few swimmer un-

der 15 years old who can qualify

for this meet at the present time

in the CNMI, or even Guam. It is a highly competitive meet,

where swimmers with local first

places may not qualify, even if

they achieve a first place finish.

The entry is based entirely on

qualifying times only. Unfor-

Center with the other teams.

KENSUKE

From Page 28

each in the Fiesta Cup, being the last two placers in the Philippine

Cup eliminations. With two imports, Austria expects his team to do well in the reinforced tourney opening March 29 with a road game in Panabo, Davao del Norte pitting Talk n Text and Coca-Cola.

Austria is hopeful their backcourt would become stable on their recruitment of Santee, a 6-foot-1 guard who played college ball for Texas Christian

University. Santee suited up for the Fort Worth team in the 2006-07 NBDL campaign, putting in 12.2 points, 1.5 assists and 1.0 steal a game.

Minus video tapes, Austria

premier swimmer, who is the

top swimmer in the CNMI,

Rezne Wong, cannot participate

because he is 16 years old al-

over Morgan.

Turning 30 on May 9, Keep was runner-up to Gonzaga's Blake Stepp for the 2003 West Coast Conference Player of the Year. He earned all-tournament honors at the 2003 Portsmouth Invitational Tournament after averaging 16.3 points on 64.3 shooting percentage (third best in the tourney).

The Bend, Oregon native played the final season of his collegiate career at San Diego after a one-year stay at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and a two-year stint with Oklahoma State. He averaged 18.0 points and 9.1 rebounds with the San Diego Toreros.

Morgan had mediocre stats

Gilbert Lao while Barangay Ginebra enlisted another playmaker in Chris Pacana. Both Lao and Pacana were picked from the free agent pool. (www.

pba.com.ph)

said they're likely to pick Keep tunately, the Tsunami Saipan's

ready," said coach Kimura. Due to the large number of swimmers, Kimura said there are 13 heats, and 104 swimmers in the preliminaries of the 11 years

old boys 50m breaststroke. He added that his son will be in for a tough fight in the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.

"Being able to survive to reach the finals will be extremely tough, as only the fastest eight swimmers will make the final heat. We have high expectations

for Kensuke as he is presently ranked in the Top 16 going into the meet. If he makes it to the final heat we will be very honored and proud," he said.

After the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet, coach Hiro is setting his sights on the upcoming Junior Olympics.

"Both Rezne and Kensuke are aiming for the Junior Olympics this summer or next spring. This meet will invite more highlevel swimmers than the Tokyo Junior Sprint Meet. As one of the newest and smallest athletic teams on Saipan, we are quite proud of how hard our swimmers work and we have a new

to Maui, Torgeson is not yet

sure if he is going or not. "It is

a great privilege to get the slot

and I know it is a huge trip for

me but I am not yet sure. It is re-

ally an exciting prospect for me

Torgeson, whether he would

go to Maui or not, said he would

continue with his training. "I will

keep a time log. I will record my

times to see if I could bring my-

"Mountain biking is new to

of competing in Hawaii."

generation of swimmers who will be making their mark in the next few years," he said.

During the previous Red Cross training sessions, Tsunami Saipan gained a few recruits, and hopes to do so once again when they hold the next series of beginners' lessons in April.

The Red Cross lessons will be offered at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's south pool starting April 5 and continuing for each Saturday throughout the month.

Kensuke got his start at one of the Red Cross swimming courses for beginners when he was six years old, according to

the older Kimura. me but my swim has improved while the run is really my stron-

gest point," he said when asked of his personal assessment in his first XTERRA Championship.

Joining Torgeson, Noble, and Bucher in Maui this year are age group winners Hayato Katayama (15-19); Ryoichi Higashino (25-29). Masato Samata (30-34). Yasuhioro Hirayama (40-44), Sato Shiro (45-49), Manny Sitchon (50-54), Florian Braig (55-59), and Hans Dieben (65-59) in the men's division. The women's division qualifiers are Stephanie Alcivar (25-29), Tomoyo Shibata (30-34), and Heather Kennedy of Saipan (40-44).

TORGESON

From Page 28

pery and there was mud all over. I even fell three times while another racer crashed seven times. We have one consolation though, the mud made the crashes not that harmful. This race had a different level of difficulty because of the rain on Friday," Torgeson said.

Torgeson topped the 35-39 age group to lead a Saipan sweep in that division.

Nate "The Snakeman" Hawley came in almost 40 minutes after Torgeson to place second

with a time of 3:57:42, while Lewie Tenorio earned his second straight third place finish after completing the course in

triathlon event after 10 years. "I'm not usually strong in the swim so that is why I just joined running and cycling races after that."

Saturday's Tagaman and the Guam XTERRA by the end of the month, said he needs to improve his swimming in order to be more competitive in triathlon. "I hope we have more triathlon events on Saipan after this races."

He also plans to join the Rota Blue Triathlon, the Tinian Turquoise Triathlon, and another event in Palau. Though earning a free pass

This was also Torgeson's first

Torgeson, who will also join

and allowed five earned runs

self into the next level."

surrendering five earned runs on four hits with two strikeouts and two walks.

Kim also homered for Kosingles, and scored one run.

The Falcons aim to join the Dreams and Rock Steady on top of the standings when they face the D9ers at 6:30pm today, while the Tigers try to snap a two-game skid when they battle Kabur on Friday.

The Tigers-Kabur game will be a rematch of their Masters Baseball League playoff match, which the former won in a 9-7 decision en route to winning the

RANGERS

From Page 28

gles, with three runs, two stolen bases, and one RBI while Pete Tomokane went 2-for-5 with one run, a double, and one RBI.

Ben Taisacan only went 1-for-3 scoring three runs and an RBI triple in the second inning, driving home catcher Robert Bansil, who walked.

The Rangers, which scored a combined five runs in the second and third innings, also used a sixrun fourth-inning rally to break the game wide open.

Kim, fresh from a recordbreaking 23 strikeouts in their losing cause against Rock Steady last week, started as Komoro's catcher before replacing Lin Jae Taek after two batters in the fourth inning. He pitched 4 3/4 innings in relief

on three hits with eight strikeouts and four walks. Tack lasted for 3 1/4 innings

moro, a solo shot in the sixth inning to finish with a 2-for-4 in batting with a single and an RBI, while Jin Han went 2-for-4, both title last January.

Tudela triumphs in March women's golf

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



Terry Tudela won the CNMI Women's Golf Association March Ace of the Month

Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The CWGA director finished with a net score of 74 after registering a gross of 93 on the strength of her 46-47 front nine and back nine scores. She had a USGA handicap of 19.

Matilde Hocog was just a shot back of Tudela with her net 75. The 21-handicap lady golfer came away with a gross of 96 (51-45).

Yang Kyon A actually tied Hocog but lost in a tiebreak to for third place. She recorded a net of 75 after a gross of



The fledgling CNMI Women's Golf Association held its March Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday with 13 of the island's female golfers taking part in it.

As-Pac committees to have regular meetings

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The various committees formed to help tournament director Michael

A. Borja in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament will have regular meetings to ensure Saipan's smooth hosting.

Borja, during last week's meeting, said they would inform all members of their next meeting in order for heads to give an update of the tasks to be done before the opening of the regional tournament.

league regional tournaments are scheduled from June 26 to July 4, one month after the Saipan Little League season ends on May 25.

The CNMI District Tournament—in the Majors, Junior, and Senior League—will be held on Rota from June 5 to 8. The Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament will be held in Hong Kong from July 8 to 16.

Borja said as host, Saipan is responsible to all off-island teams one day before and one day after the regional tournament.

Joey Dela Cruz, who is also a graduate of the Saipan Little

The Junior, Senior, and Big League program and coached the 2006 Pacific regional champions in the 60th Little League World Series, is tasked to oversee the venues to be used in the regional tournament with the assistance of Division of Sports & Recreation director Joe Lizama and his staff.

> CNMI assistant district administrator and former DSR director Tony Rogolifoi will be joined by former Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Joe Salas in the technical committee where they are tasked to interpret the rules and accept protests from

CNMI assistant DA Cathy Salas, SLLBA treasurer Annie Flores, and Lilian Ada will head the solicitation, programs, awards, accommodation and transportation, and meals committees, respectively.

Roque Celis, Joe Lizama, and Ben Sablan will be the tournament's statisticians, while James Miwata and Robert Guerrero are the head umpires.

Cathy Salas also informed everyone that the official website is now under construction with the help of MCV's Danny Camacho, who will host and design the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament site.

Indoor volleyball action returns Thursday

By JON PEREZ

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Action in the 2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League returns tomorrow with 14 men's and women's teams seeing action at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Games were cancelled for two play dates, on March 4 and 6, to give way for the appointment of Elias Rangamar as new league coordinator replacing former Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Jon Cramer.

Cramer left Saipan last Sunday after being appointed as the new head of Pacific Islands Club's sports and entertainment division.

Rangamar held a coaches and referees clinic last night.

Games that were originally scheduled last night would have had Home Boys taking on Menudo in the first game, Fanians squaring off against Ma Numel'u in the second, and Ol'Aces challenging the CH-Hammer in the third—all in the men' division.

Matches in the women's side, meanwhile, were supposed to be Beach Jammers playing Seikid and Pikan Gaga opposite Ta Chagi.

When games resume tomorrow, Ma Numel'u will open up the evening's



JON PEREZ

Action in the Indoor Volleyball League returns on Thursday after a weeklong break with 14 men's and women's teams resuming their respective playoff bids.

matches in the men's division when they face Beach Jammers at 6pm, while No Fear takes on league leading Menudo at 7pm.

Beach, Jammers, No Fear, and Ol'Aces will play twice on the same day. Ol'Aces will first face the Islanders at 8pm and they will clash with No Fear at 9pm. Beach Jammers will meet Fanians in the other court at 9pm.

Seikid and Ta Chagi will also play twice in the women's side they will face Pikan Gaga and YoYo's at 6pm and 7pm before facing off in the 8pm match.

The final regular season games will be played on Monday, March 17, with Home

Boyz clashing with Menudo at 6pm followed by the Fanians-Ma Numel'u 7pm match. The 8pm game will have Ol'Aces battling CH-Hammer, while Islanders close out the regular season against No Fear at 9pm.

In the women's division, Beach Jammers collide with Seikid at 6pm followed by the Pikan Gaga-Ta Chagi match at 7pm.

The playoff round will be played the following day, Tuesday, with the Top 8 teams advancing in the men's division, while No. 2 to No. 5 will slug it out in the women's class with the still undefeated Pikan Gaga having a first round bye.

raine A. Babauta (77), Noriko Togawa (78), Yuko Togawa (80), Kimiko Abe (80), Dolores Yamagishi (80), Sherlyn Jones (87), Eun Ae Chang (102 gross), Ok Soon Kim (102), and Mayumu Nakadai (110) also took part in the monthly tournament.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Pro-

mote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully follow are perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

FMI cage league to unfurl Friday

By MARK RABAGO

ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Inaugural Friends of the Mariana Islands Inter-Color Basket-

ball League will kick off with an opening ceremony this Friday, March 14, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League coordinator Boy Garcia said the 6pm opening ceremony would immediately be followed by the tip-off for the first game. The second game will start at around 7:30pm or immediately after the conclusion of the opener.

Garcia, who stirred Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense to three straight UFO cage league championships and Visminda to two more, said seven teams have already signed up for the open division, with five more in the 40-and-over masters age group.

He said teams that will play Friday would be determined by a drawing of lots and he is reminding representatives to submit players' waiver forms, teams rosters, and the \$500 entry fee before the opening cer-

of the seven teams already

have names and they are: Price Costco, Bayani, Tasi Tours, SMF, PTI, and Blue House.

He said after the opening, the league will be played at either the Construction and Material Supply basketball court in Gualo Rai or at the CIC basketball court in Garapan. The league will have three play dates every week-Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Wednesday and Saturday's schedule will have two games, starting at 6:30pm and 8pm, while the Sunday schedule will have an earlier time for its two games, 5pm and 6:30pm.

For more information about the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, call Garcia at 233-0802.

An FMI team competed in the recently concluded 2007-2008 Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball

Sponsored by PTI and coached by Garcia with Cris Calub serving as his top lieutenant, the team was made up of guards Bernard Aquino, Mike Umali, Jun Tabora, and James Abuy, forwards Leo Factor, Darwin Barbo, and Ryan Sanciangco, and centers Earlier Garcia said that six Marlon De Dios and Edmark Mendoza.

RGA Ace of the Month this Sunday



Golf Association will hold its March Ace of the Month Tour-

nament this Sunday, March 16, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf

Tee time is set at 1pm with check-in time an hour before at 12pm. Slots are available for 16 players.

Score to beat in this month's tournament is the qualifying score of 67 posted by RGA president "emeritus" and cur-

Refaluwasch rent tournament director Jess Wabol last March 1.

RGA also welcomed Jay Choi and Palik Thompson as new members in the March qualifier. The club is also encouraging members to take part in this year's Mt. Carmel Golf Tournament set for thus Saturday, March 15.

For more information about RGA's March Ace of the Month Tournament, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673. (Mark Rabago)



Tudela triumphs in March women's golf

Terry Tudela won the CNMI Women's Golf Association March Ace of the Month Tour-

nament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rockets tie 3rd-longest win streak at 19

Tracy McGrady pulled the towel over his shoulders, leaned back in his seat on the bench and smiled. The Houston Rockets' 19th consecutive victory was a laugher.





28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kensuke qualifies for Tokyo meet

By MARK RABAGO

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sunami Swimming Center Saipan mainstay Kensuke Kimura recently qualified for the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet set for March 15 and 16 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.

The 11-year-old has gained entry into the competition after meeting rigid qualifying times during the recent Saipan International Meet held last Feb. 29 and March 1 at the Kan Pacific



Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Kimura swam the 50m breaststroke in 41.55 seconds. The minimum qualifying time for an 11-year-old boy's entry is 41.70 seconds.

According to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, who is also Kensuke's father, the Tokyo Junior Sprint is one of the biggest age group swim meets in the world.

"This swimming venue is only for promising swimmers who are under 15 years old. This year 96 teams with a total of 3,404 swimmers will participate. With strict qualifying times, this event is one of the very highest age group meets because only top level junior swimmers from around the world can participate," he said.

See KENSUKE on Page 26



Kensuke Kimura in action at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan member recently qualified for the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet set for March 15 and 16 at the Tatsumi International Swimming

Rangers rebound from opening day defeat

By JON PEREZ



The Ford Rangers bounced back from their opening day loss, dealing Komoro a 13-3 crushing in

Monday night's game in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Franco Flores earned the win after pitching three innings in relief, giving up one earned run, a solo home run by Kim Jae Wong in the bottom of the eighth, fanning six batters and walking none.

Pete Tenorio had his first start of the season pitching for five innings allowing Komoro to one earned run on six hits with three strikeouts and one walk to help the Rangers even up its record to 1-1.

The Korean Dreams and Rock Steady currently leads the eight-team field with similar 2-0 records, while defending champion Tanapag Falcons and the D9ers are tied in second to third places with their 1-0 slates.

Kabur (0-1), Tigers (0-2), and Komoro with its third straight loss in as many games complete the standings.

Center fielder Jess Iguel led the Rangers' charge going 3-for-4, all sin-See RANGERS on Page 26

Torgeson enjoys first XTERRA experience

Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



MARK RABAGO

Eli Torgeson, seen here in the swim course, finished fifth overall in the 7th Annual Saipan XTERRA Championship last Saturday.



Torgeson earned a slot in the season-ending XTER-RA World Championship in Makena, Maui, Hawaii on Oct. 26 when he became the top amateur finisher in Saturday's race held at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

The Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist had a total time of three hours, 17 minutes, and 11 seconds, finishing fifth overall behind pros Andrew Noble of Australia, Jim Vance of the U.S., Japan's Takashiro Ogasawara, and Switzerland's Renata Bucher.

His time was composed of a 25:12 in the swim, 1:46:44 in the muddy bike leg, and 1:05:15 in the slippery trail run portion in completing the first half of the Pacific Islands Club Double. The 17th Tagaman Triathlon will be held on Saturday.

"The conditions are extreme but one thing that's nice it was sunny the whole day," said Torgeson in an interview during Saturday's banquet at the Pacific

Torgeson, who joined his first-ever XTERRA triathlon event, even finished ahead of XTERRA Saipan regular and pro Taro Shirato of Japan. He said last Friday's whole day showers made the course muddy and slippery.

"The bike is really a treacherous course. It was sli-See TORGESON on Page 26

15 'try' XTERRA Sport course

By JON PEREZ

REPORTER

Fifteen people participated in the scaled-down XTERRA Sport course with nine doing it individually as they also proved their worth in the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

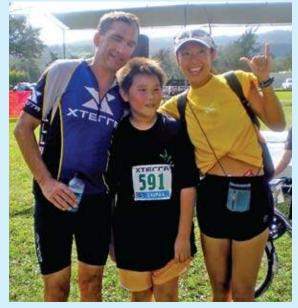
The XTERRA Sport is half of the regular XTERRA course consisting of a 750-meter swim, 20kilometer bike, and 8-km run.

Two mixed teams also competed last Saturday with the squad composed of Maimi Shimizu, Dirk Sharer, and Jack Sharer finishing first among all competitors.

They completed the course in two hours, 32 minutes, and 48 seconds. Shimizu swam for their team completing the loop around the waters of Micro Beach in 16:16.

Dirk Sharer completed the bike leg of the race finishing in 1:46:09, while son Jack had a time of 29:23 in the 8K run.

The Joneses—composed of brothers Rafael and Angelo and their sister Shane—had a combined time of 3:18:20. Shane



The relay team of, from left, Dirk Sharer, son Jack, and Maimi Shimizu topped the XTERRA Sport course of last Saturday's 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship.

> swam for their team with a time of 23:31, while Rafael did the bike in 2:32:44 and Angelo completing the race when he ran the 8K course in 22:05.

> Melchor Roderick was the top individual finisher to win the 35-39 division in 2:35:23, while 16-year-old Federico Fernandez (15-

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